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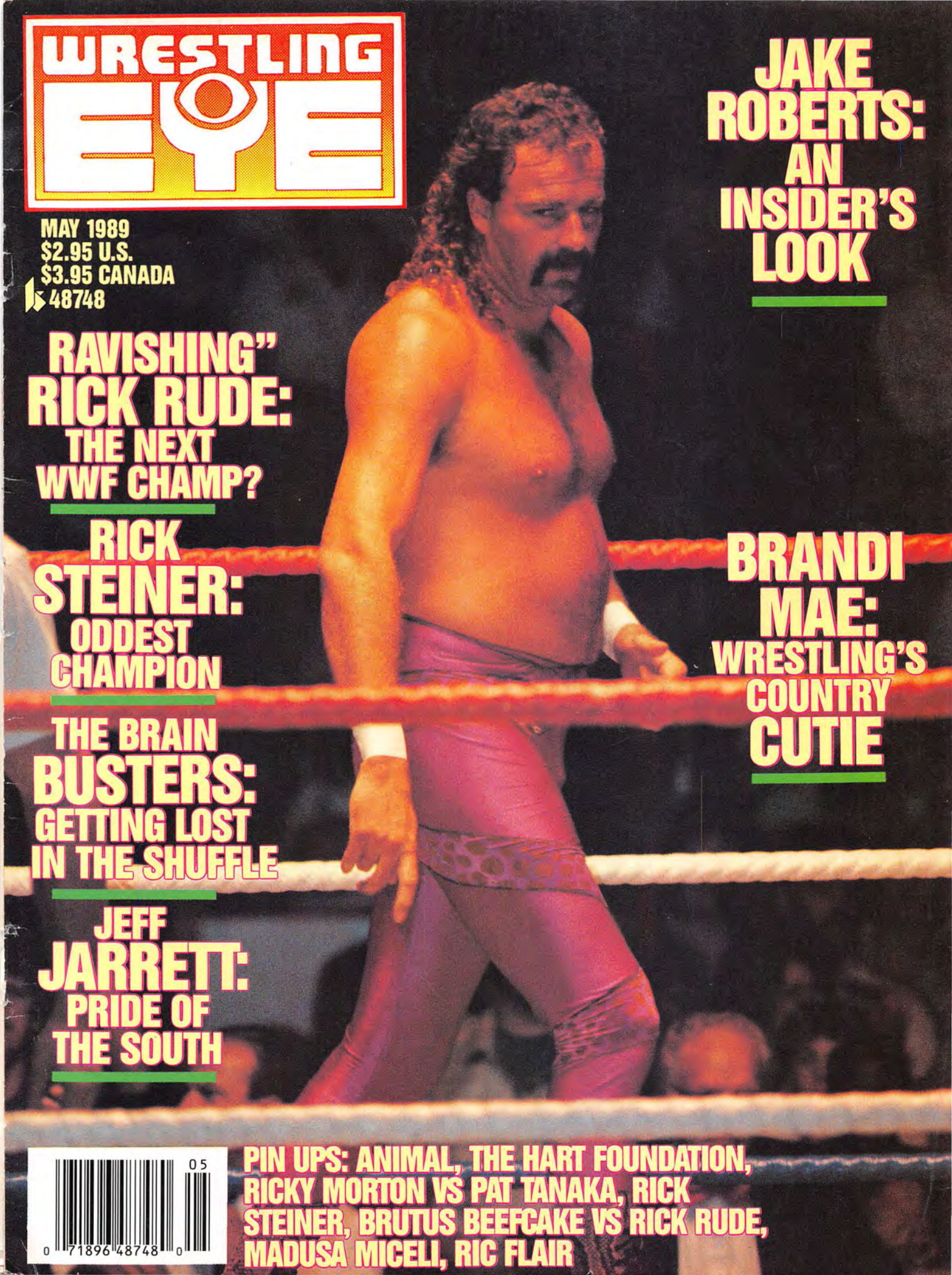

## JAKE ROBERTS: AN INSIDER'S LOOK

## "RAVISHING" RICK RUDE: THE NEXT WWF CHAMP?

## RICK STEINER: ODDEST CHAMPION

## BRANDI MAE: WRESTLING'S COUNTRY CUTIE

## THE BRAIN BUSTERS: GETTING LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

## JEFF JARRETT: PRIDE OF THE SOUTH

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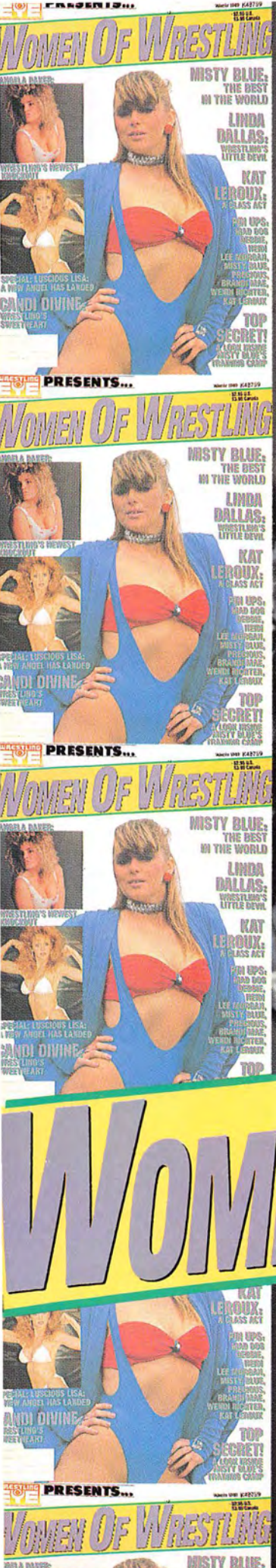
PIN UPS: ANIMAL, THE HART FOUNDATION, RICKY MORTON VS PAT TANAKA, RICK STEINER, BRUTUS BEEFCAKE VS RICK RUDE, MADUSA MICELI, RIC FLAIR

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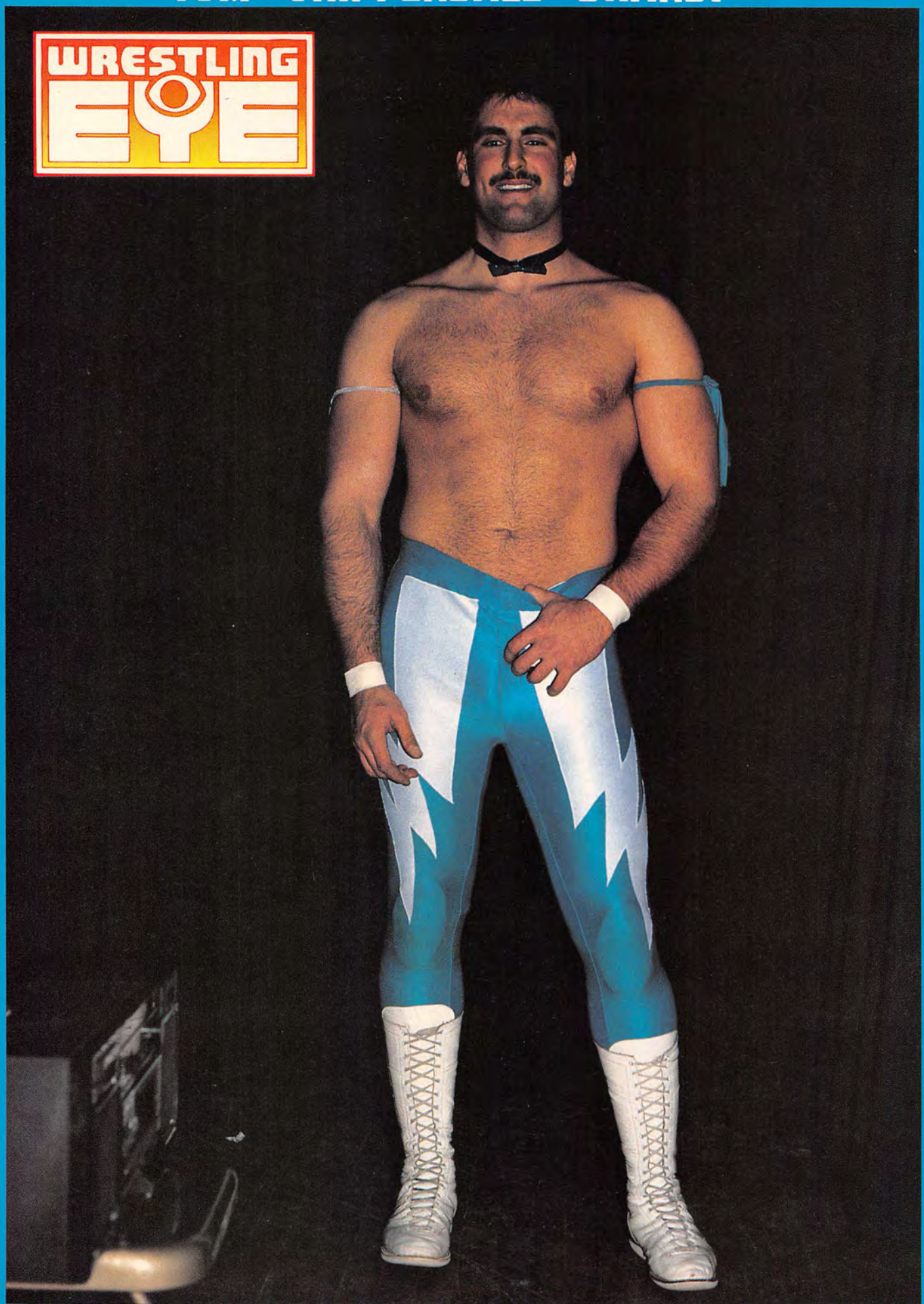
# ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL

Photo By DeSpirito

# THE HART FOUNDATION

# TOM "CHIPPENDALE" BRANDI

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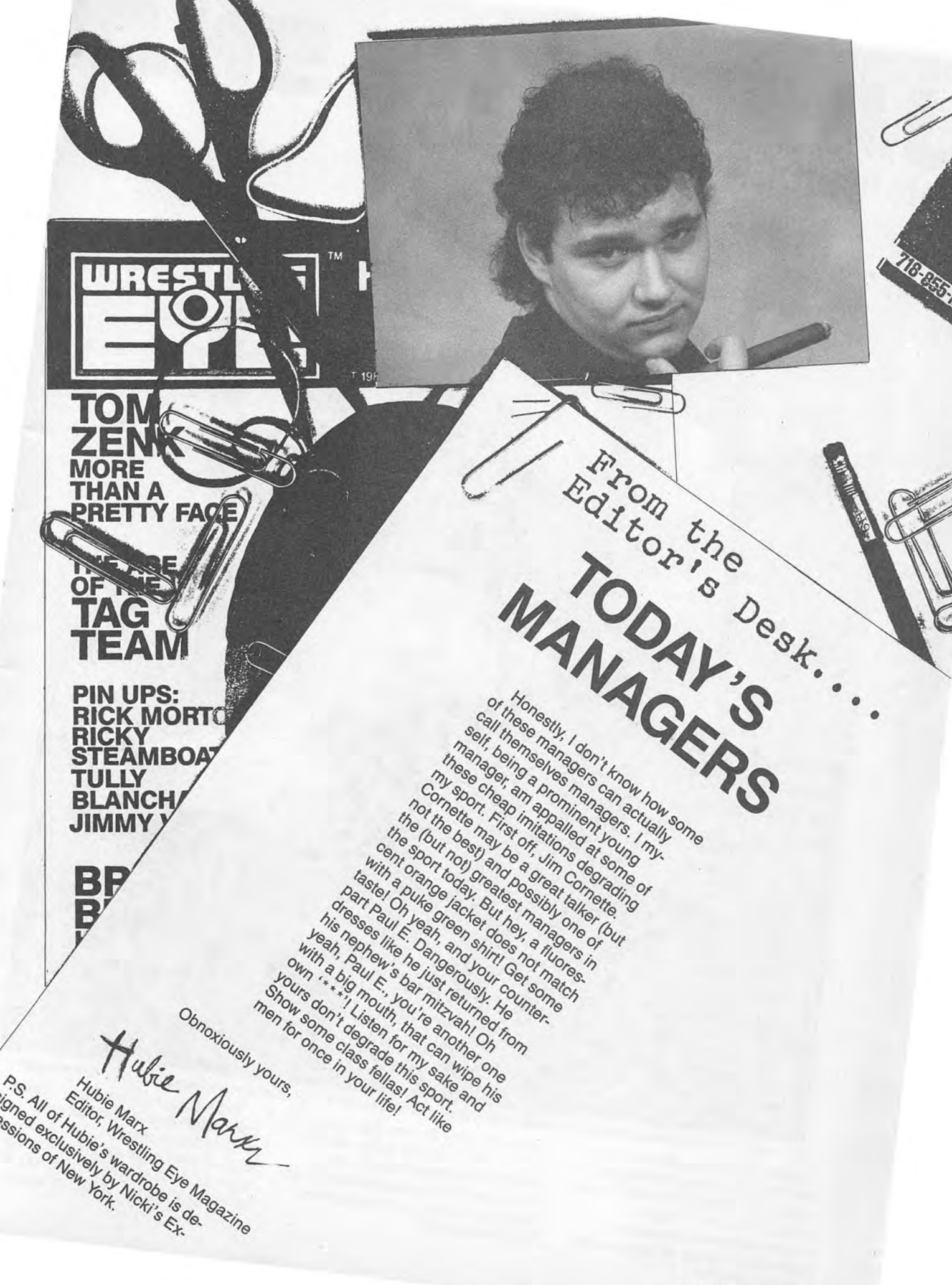
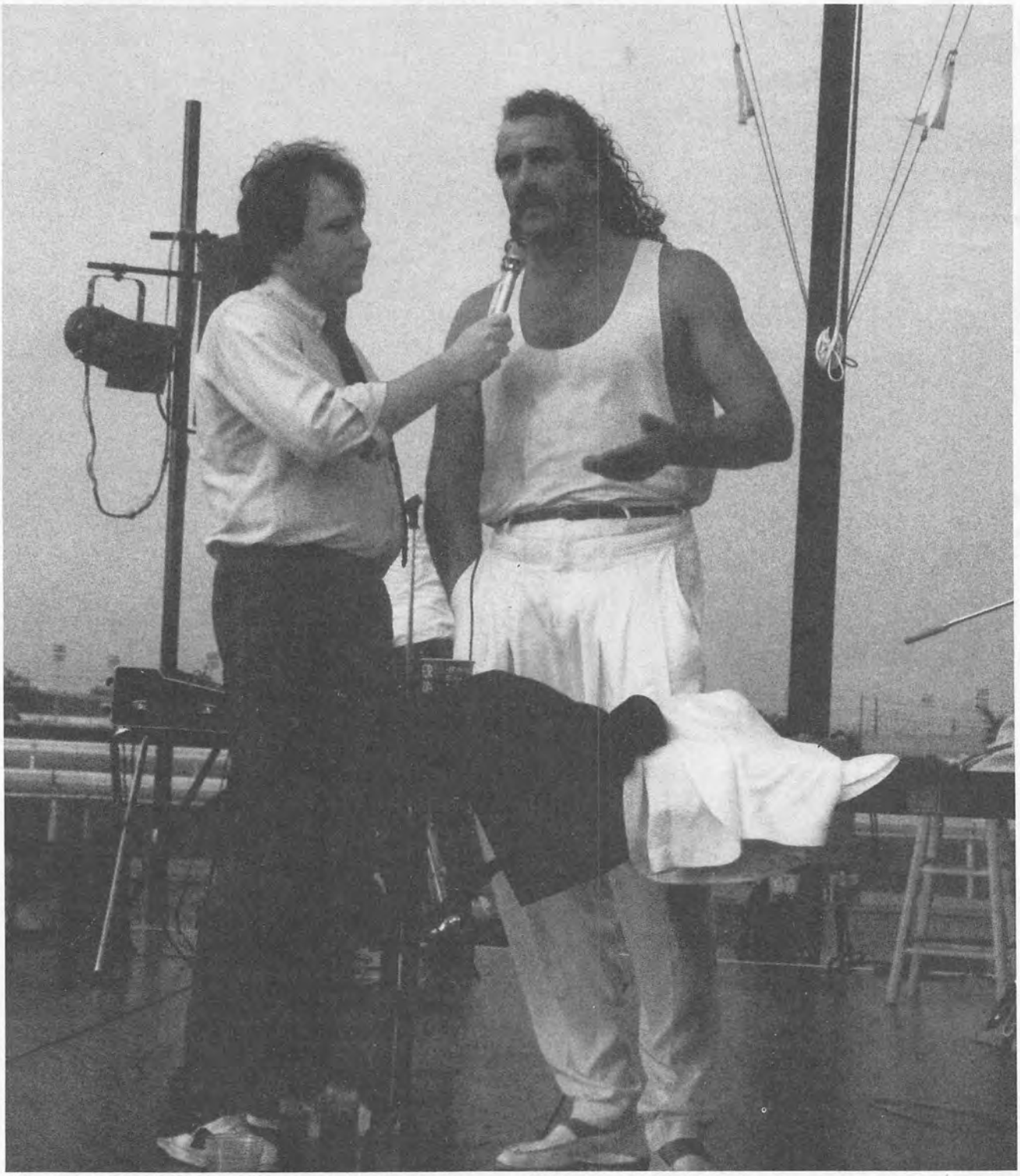

WRESTLING EYE
TOM ZENK
MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE
TAG TEAM
PIN UPS:
RICK MORTO
RICKY
STEAMBOA
TULLY
BLANCH
JIMMY
From the Editor's Desk....
TODAY'S MANAGERS
Honestly, I don't know how some of these managers can actually call themselves managers. I myself, being a prominent young manager, am appalled at some of these cheap imitations degrading my sport. First off, Jim Cornette. Cornette may be a great talker (but not the best) and possibly one of the (but not) greatest managers in the sport today. But hey, a fluorescent orange jacket does not match with a puke green shirt! Get some taste! Oh yeah, and your counterpart Paul E. Dangerously. He dresses like he just returned from his nephew's bar mitzvah! Oh yeah, Paul E., you're another one with a big mouth, that can wipe his own '***'! Listen for my sake and yours don't degrade this sport. Show some class fellas! Act like men for once in your life!
Obnoxiously yours,
Hubie Marx
Hubie Marx
Editor, Wrestling Eye Magazine
P.S. All of Hubie's wardrobe is designed exclusively by Nicki's Expressions of New York.

# JAKE "THE SNA

## AN INSIDER'S LOOK by Tom Clutters



*Jake, seen here being interviewed by New York's WFAN radio personality Jody MacDonald, is continually surrounded by the media.*

In the larger-than-life realm of the World Wrestling Federation, Jake "The Snake" Roberts is truly unique. He has managed to survive and even prosper in a place where some thought he just wouldn't fit in. The most successful in the WWF usually rely on something other than wrestling ability. If you can talk a good fight and can look good doing it, then you can become a star.

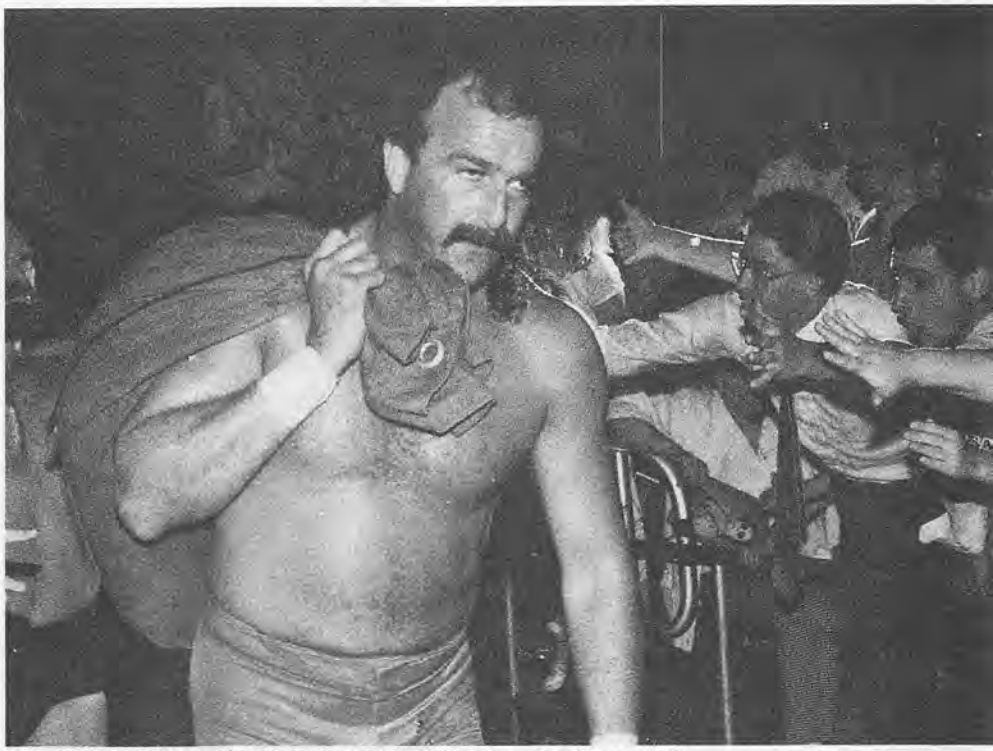
To be sure, Roberts hasn't been completely immune to the gimmick-laden promotion. The presence of his pet boa constrictor, Damien, at each of Jake's matches is similar in nature to antics of others

# KE" ROBERTS

like the British Bulldogs and KoKo B.Ware. But the similarity stops there. Roberts is a truly gifted wrestler, perhaps the most talented in the federation, and Damien fits Jake's personality perfectly. In his days as a hated rulebreaker, The Snake was considered to have one of the most cruel and devious minds in the sport. No one was capable of more viciousness and savagery than Jake Roberts. His memorable war with Tommy Rich a few years back could well be one reason Rich has never regained superstardom. Roberts drew more blood and caused more grief to the young Tennessee star than even Buzz Sawyer had done.

In the past couple of years, however, Jake Roberts and his reptilian accomplice have changed their ways, and now hear cheers instead of jeers. For most of the second half of 1988, and on into 1989, Roberts was embroiled in not one, but two brutal wars. On one hand, there was the preening, egotistical Ravishing Rick Rude that Jake had to deal with, while on the other hand, there was the mammoth Andre the Giant and the Bobby Heenan family. It was a tall order for anyone, but the Snake jumped into both feuds with his usual intensity.

Even though they had met during the WrestleMania IV title tournament, Roberts and Rude had mostly ignored each other. That is until one fateful night on national television when Rude, selecting a "lucky lady" to receive one of his "Rude Awakening" kisses, picked out a lovely subject who flatly refused his offer. The Ravishing One, not accustomed to being turned down by a female in any situation, let alone in front of millions, attempted to physically force the woman to succumb to his wishes. As they were struggling, Jake suddenly dashed to the scene, and he and Rude engaged in a full-fledged riot, which had to be broken up by WWF security personnel. As it turned out, the lady in question just happened to be Cheryl Roberts, who just happened to be Jake's wife.



*Jake and his snake make their way to the ring. (photo by J. Tesoriero)*

Rude, either undaunted by his obvious error in choice or either too proud to admit it, chose to continue his quest for Cheryl Roberts' attention, but she stood beside her man through it all. "Rude is nothing more than a man who uses women for his own ego," said Cheryl. "I cannot imagine what a self-respecting woman would see in him." Nevertheless, Rick's advances continued, and the war heated up. Rude even decided to have Cheryl's face imprinted on his thighs, and that proved to be too much for the Snake. "I'm tellin' you something right now Rude," threatened Roberts. "If you want to keep your health and your pride, you won't wear those tights in the ring again!" Rude, however, did just that, and true to his word, Roberts took action. Following a match, the Ravishing One paraded around the ring in the controversial attire, only to have Jake enter the ring and rip his wife's image from Rude's body, leaving Rick clad in only what Mother Nature had provided him at birth. With help from Heenan, Rude covered himself and dashed to the dressing room, embarrassed and humiliated. Jake Roberts had proven his point.

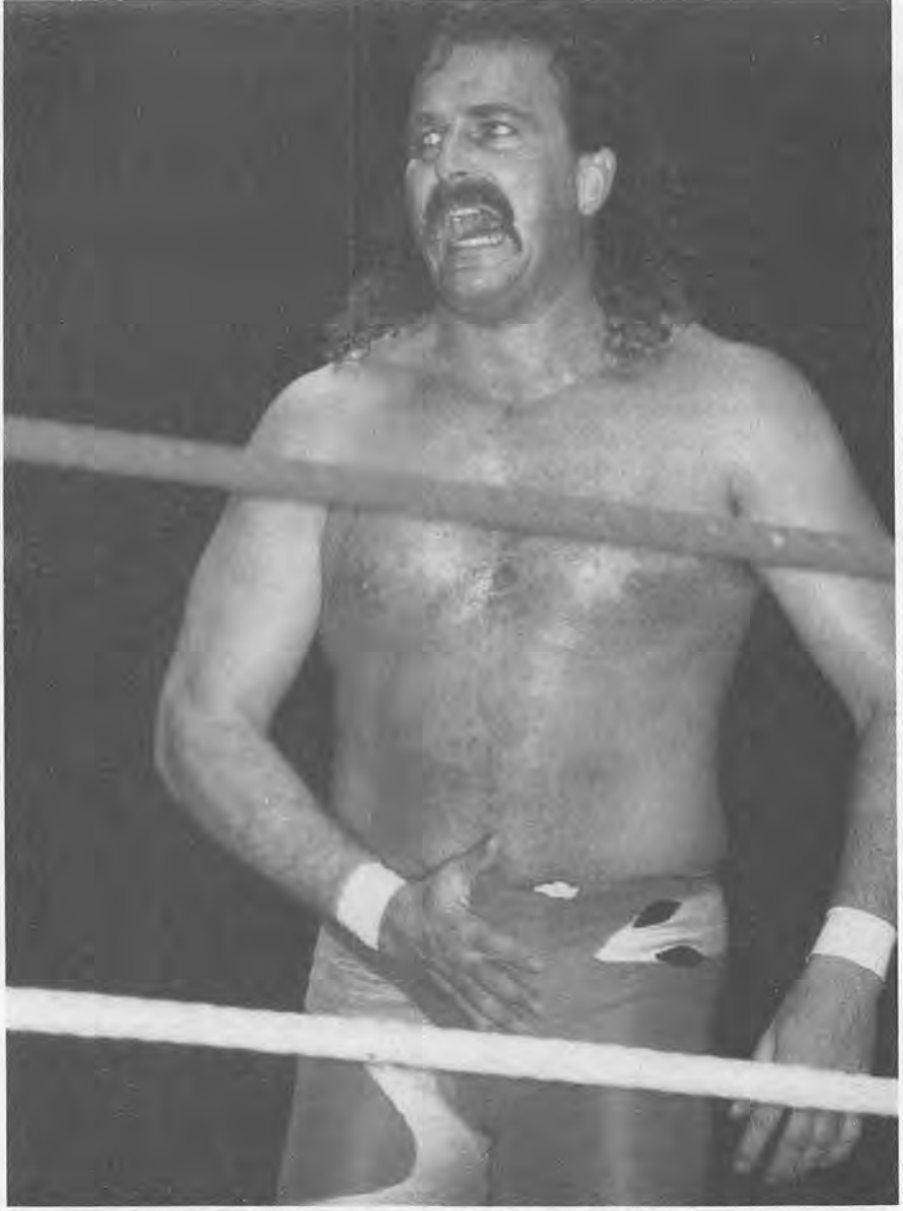
While maybe not as personal as the conflict with Rude, the Roberts/Andre war is just as fierce. Like most competitors, Jake is not a physical match for the 7-4, 500-pound Giant. In fact, the two had never crossed paths on a regular basis before. It was a well-known fact to WWF insiders, however, that Jake had a burning dislike for Andre and Bobby Heenan, and the tactics they employed. "Jake never said much about it publicly, but he really couldn't stomach Andre the Giant," revealed one WWF official. "Jake felt that all Andre did once he got in the ring was try to choke the life out of someone, and he didn't think that was what wrestling was supposed to be." Despite his strong feelings, though, Roberts remained silent.

During one of the final Rude/Roberts matchups, the whole situation exploded. Jake had just delivered his devastating DDT to the Ravishing One, and as he prepared for the pin, he was attacked by Heenan. While Roberts was dealing with the devious manager, the awesome figure of Andre suddenly appeared in the ring. With help from his partners in crime, Andre attempted to choke the

Snake into submission. Other wrestlers and referees tried to intercede, and while Andre resisted them, it gave Jake time to bring out his secret weapon. When the bag was emptied and Damien slithered onto the mat, a look of sheer terror erupted on Andre's massive face. He staggered back into a corner, pleading "No, no, no!" It quickly became apparent that the Giant had a deathly fear of snakes, and Roberts was the first to recognize it. Heenan and the others cleared the ring, leaving only Andre, Jake, and Damien. In the next several seconds, Jake advanced closer with the reptile in hand, while a helpless Andre screamed for help from his manager. After a couple minutes of intimidation, Roberts finally threw his pet on the Giant, who completely panicked. As he was rolling around the ring with Damien wrapped around him, Andre began clutching his chest, and eventually passed out—fainted. It took several minutes to revive him, and Andre was severely shaken for days afterward.

"Andre my man, you might have just made the biggest mistake of your life," said Roberts. "Everybody has a weakness, but no one could find yours. Well, I know now that you have that secret fear deep inside your soul. It's your Achilles Heel, man, and it's gonna be the end of you!" For their part, both Heenan and the Giant denied any deep-rooted fear of snakes was involved. "It's very, very simple," claimed Heenan. "Andre doesn't like animals of any kind, and a snake is the lowest form of animal life. He has no great fear of snakes. Andre the Giant isn't afraid of anything. But next time, Roberts, leave that slimy reptile at home, and meet the Giant man to man."

The next notable encounter between Andre and his scaly opponent came during the nationwide "Saturday Night's Main Event" in December. Andre, involved in a title match with WWF champion Randy Savage, was pulling out all the stops, using every illegal tactic he could think of, and was actually gaining the upper hand on the Macho Man. About midway through the match, Roberts appeared at ringside, with the familiar canvas bag over his shoulder. With both the Giant and his manager protesting loudly, Jake left the area, but hid the bag and its contents under the ring itself. Heenan desperately searched for Damien while Andre watched, more concerned with the snake than with the match. Just as Heenan found his quarry, Roberts reappeared. The terrified manager rushed into the ring, causing Andre to be disqualified. In the confusion that followed, Andre became entangled in the ropes, and only through the efforts of his manager and the referee did he get loose before feeling Damien on his flesh once again.



*Jake Roberts sometimes acts like a man possessed.*

As usual, Jake Roberts is in control, not only of himself, but of the situation he is involved in. This uncanny ability, combined with his natural ring ability, will undoubtedly keep "The Snake" on top as long as he wishes.

* * *

For certain, much of Jake's success in pro wrestling can be traced to a strong family background in the sport. His father is former mat star Grizzly Smith, who currently works as a road manager for the WWF. Smith was a highly-respected grappler, and his oldest son learned his lessons well, and earned the same respect, while shunning use of the family name to make things easier. The same might also be said for younger brother Mark, who wrestles as Sam Houston in the federation, and for sister "Rockin Robin" who became WWF ladies' champion in Paris, France, when she defeated Sensational Sherri Martel.

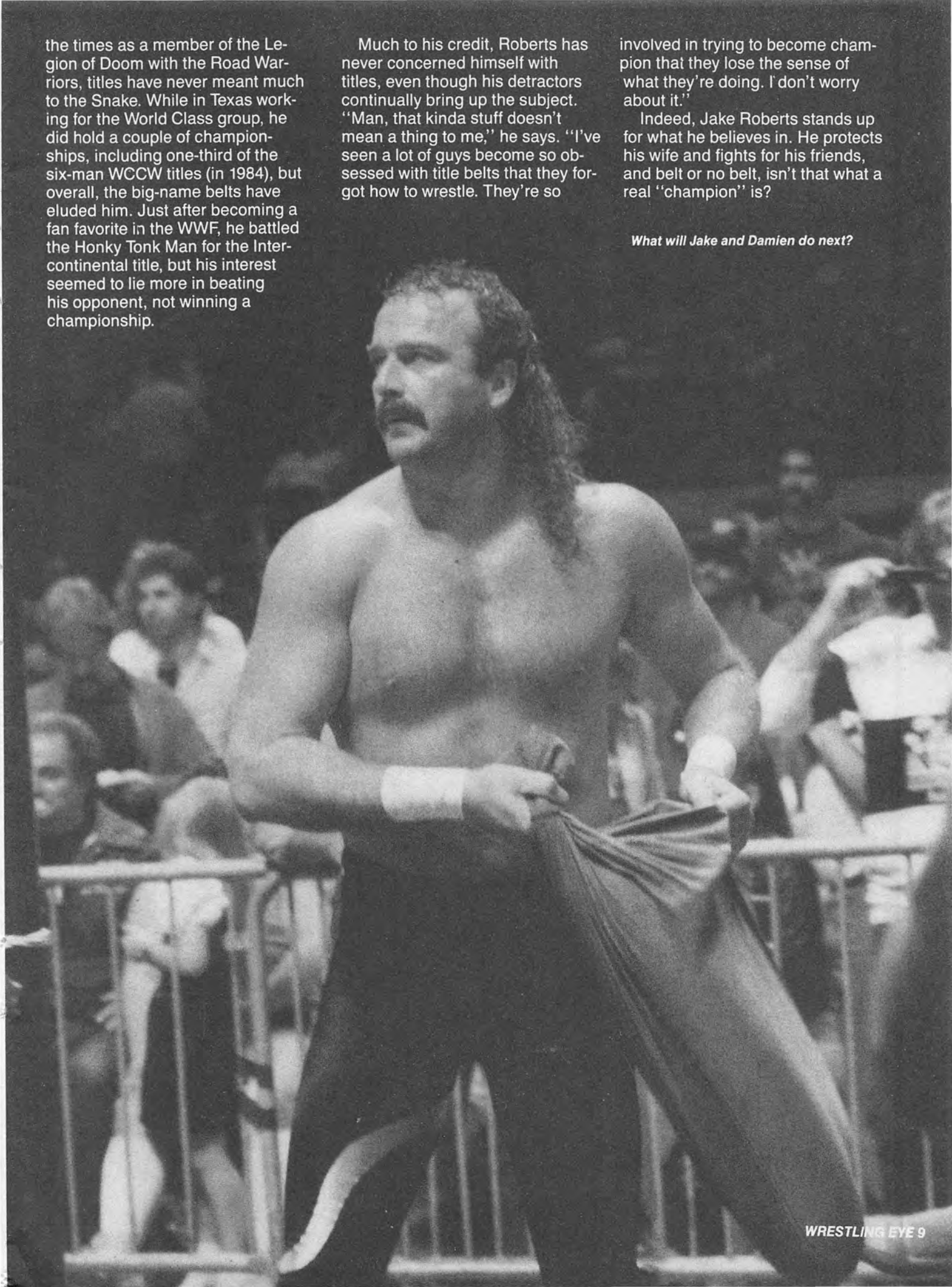
One shortcoming in the remarkable career of Jake Roberts has been the lack of a major title around his waist. From his days as a good-guy cowboy in Georgia to

the times as a member of the Legion of Doom with the Road Warriors, titles have never meant much to the Snake. While in Texas working for the World Class group, he did hold a couple of championships, including one-third of the six-man WCCW titles (in 1984), but overall, the big-name belts have eluded him. Just after becoming a fan favorite in the WWF, he battled the Honky Tonk Man for the Intercontinental title, but his interest seemed to lie more in beating his opponent, not winning a championship.

Much to his credit, Roberts has never concerned himself with titles, even though his detractors continually bring up the subject. "Man, that kinda stuff doesn't mean a thing to me," he says. "I've seen a lot of guys become so obsessed with title belts that they forgot how to wrestle. They're so involved in trying to become champion that they lose the sense of what they're doing. I don't worry about it."

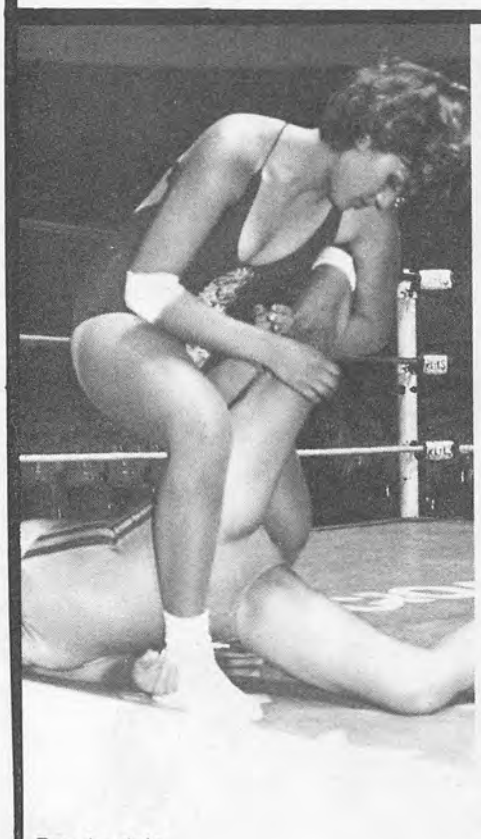
Indeed, Jake Roberts stands up for what he believes in. He protects his wife and fights for his friends, and belt or no belt, isn't that what a real "champion" is?

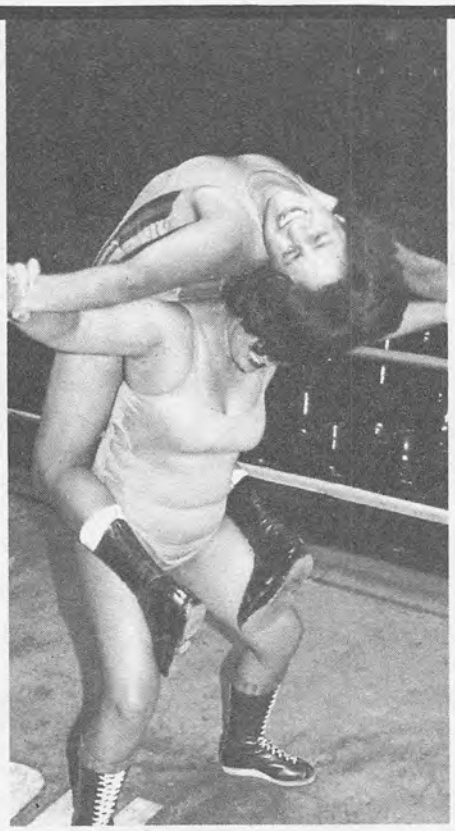
***What will Jake and Damien do next?***



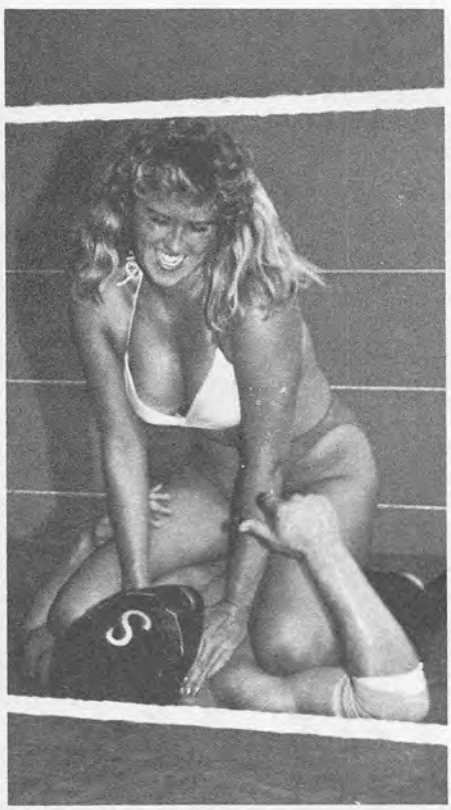
# Videos & Photos
# Real Matches in Pro Ring

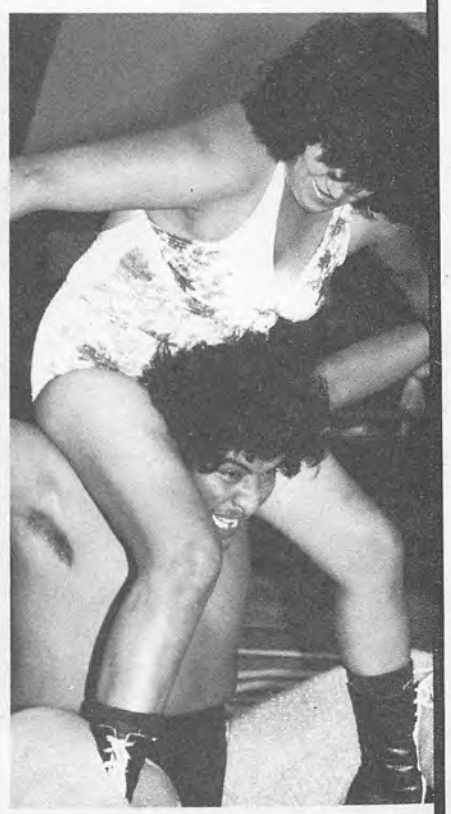
# LADY WRESTLING!



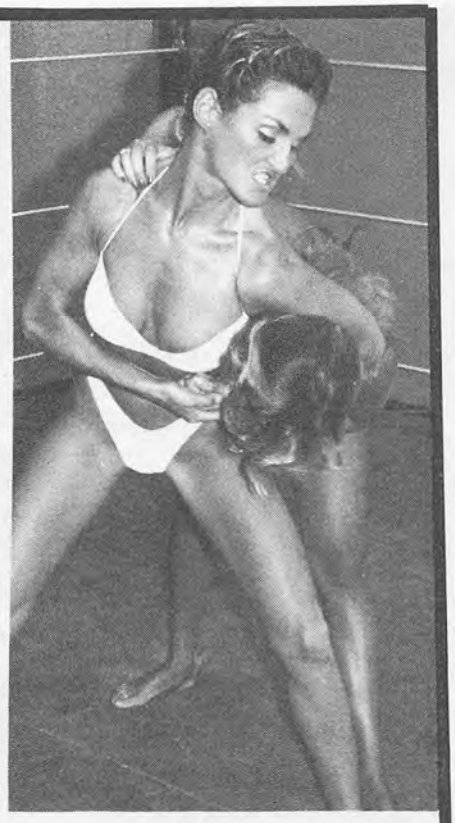


Pro Lady's





Male vs. Female



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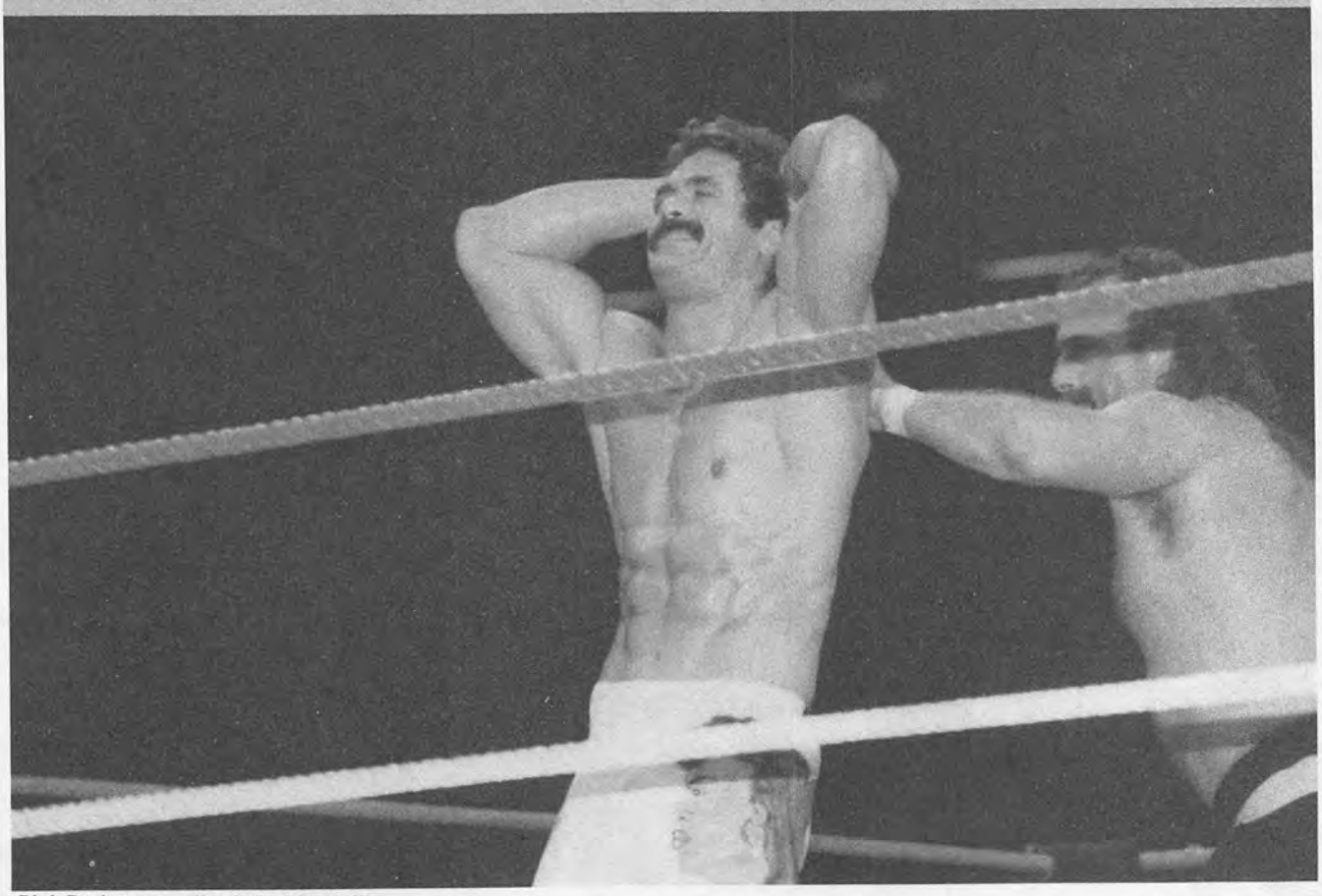
# "RAVISHING" RICK RUDE

## THE NEXT WWF CHAMP? by DON LAIBLE



*Rick Rude can really shake his stuff!*

It's no mistake that Bobby Heenan is referred to as "The Brain." As one of professional wrestling's most successful managers, he can cultivate a fine athlete into a true superstar. Case in point is none other than Rick Rude. The progression and skill of this Robinsdale, Minnesota native continues to be a focal point of interest in the World Wrestling Federation. Rick Rude has become the wrestler that many feel will eventually challenge and capture the WWF Heavyweight Championship.

Rick Rude didn't just walk into the wrestling spotlight. He has worked his way up the rankings and over the past five years and has headlined for all the major American promotions. Before landing his position in the WWF, Rude experienced many professional thrills in the South and also earned national acclaim as a member of Paul Jones' stable in the NWA.

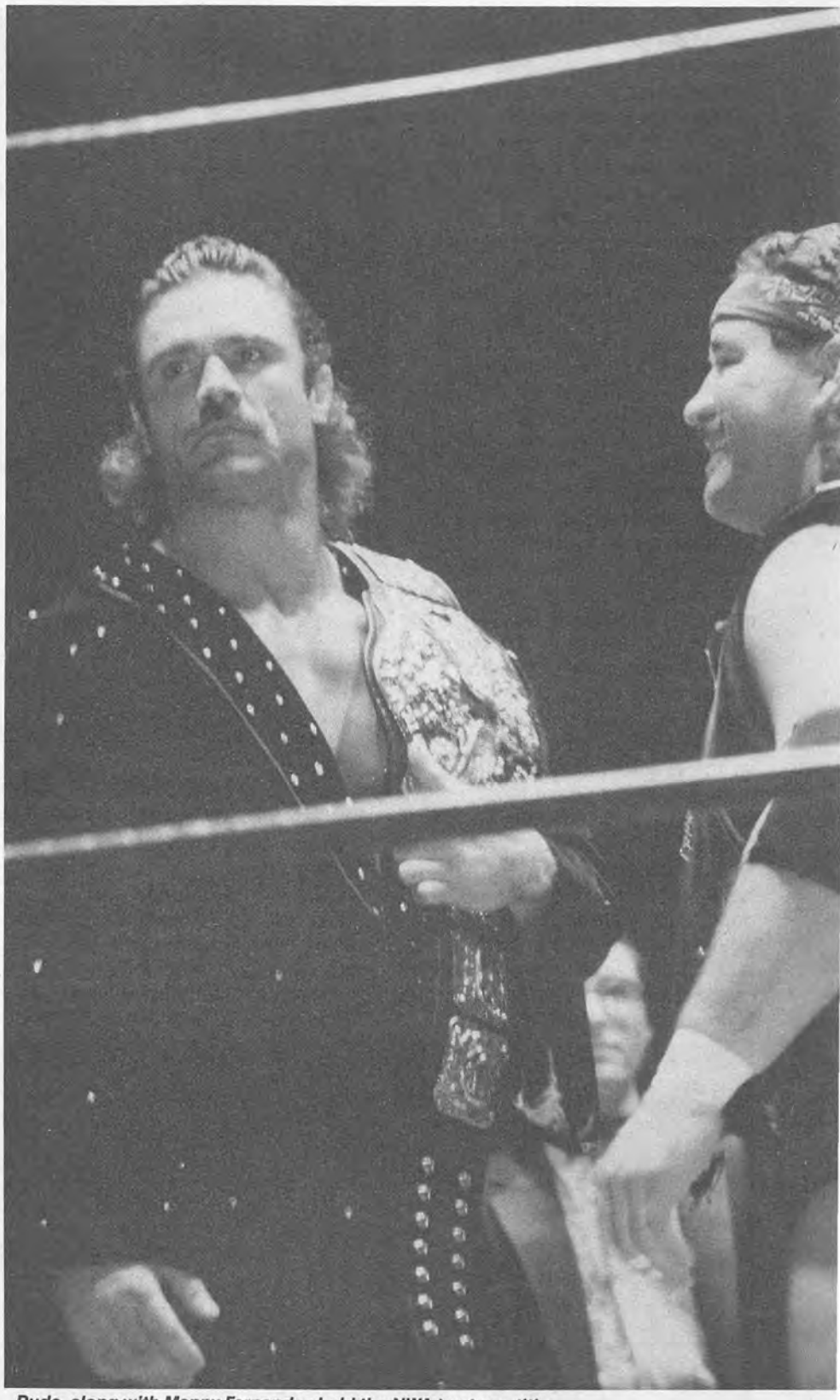
Rude served his ring apprenticeship with the NWA in 1983. Rude, who was wrestling under his given name of Rick Rood, decided to try his luck with the Texas based World Class Championship Wrestling. This is where Rick's true mat talents were unleashed. With a glamourous redhead named Raven serving as his valet, Rude didn't shy away from the area's top wrestlers. The training he received from Eddie Sharkey who, incidentally worked with the Road Warriors and Savannah Jack, proved to be invaluable when mixing it up with none other than Kevin and Kerry Von Erich.

With the winning momentum of the WCCW scene pushing him on, the Continental Wrestling Association in Memphis, Tennessee was the next stop for the "Rude Express." Just as he did in Texas, he came, he saw, he conquered, then moved on. Sure, Jerry Lawler gave him some tough times but the bottom line remains, the CWA title found it's way around Rick's waist. Austin Idol, a 6'3" 260 lb. blonde bomber, on many occasions attempted unsuccessfully to wrestle loose the CWA championship from

Rude. Soon, there wasn't much talent in the region to give Rick a run for his money. He just plain left. Scouting for challenging, new horizons, his old stomping grounds, the NWA seemed to be the next stop on the road to coast to coast stardom.

The situation with Rick Rude and Crockett Promotions this time around would be significantly different. No longer would he be delegated to preliminary mat status. No longer was he going to be bullied around by the likes of Dusty Rhodes, Wahoo McDaniel or Nikita Koloff. A new and improved but especially wiser Rick Rude had come aboard the NWA. Paul Jones, a respected wrestler turned manager, was now the guiding force behind his career. When Rude came back to the NWA, Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson were enjoying their third time around as NWA World Tag Team Champions. Paul Jones had a vision of one of those shiny, gold belts around Rick's waist. However, a compatible partner was needed. When the search ended, a new R&R Express was formed. Not the Rock 'n Roll Express, as Morton and Gibson are billed as but "Ravishing" Rick Rude and "The Raging Bull" Manny Fernandez.

Fernandez's style complemented the work Rude executed. "The Bull" tired their challengers down with power moves such as suplexes and backdrops. When he tagged off to Rick, the end was near for their foes. Fernandez was always on the go, running his opponents all over the ring. His elbow smashes and kneedrops off the second rope weakened them to the point of exhaustion. Now the axe was about to put them away for good. "The Rude Awakening," a hold perfected by Rick, applied when reversing a headlock on his opponent and ramming his neck down to the canvas, continues to put the finishing touch. A showdown, which Jones backed Morton and Gibson into, for "all the marbles" was signed. This championship match wouldn't be seen before a few thousand fans in an arena located in a North Carolina town. Millions of viewers tuned in on a Saturday evening to the TBS Cable Network to watch the much demanded battle.

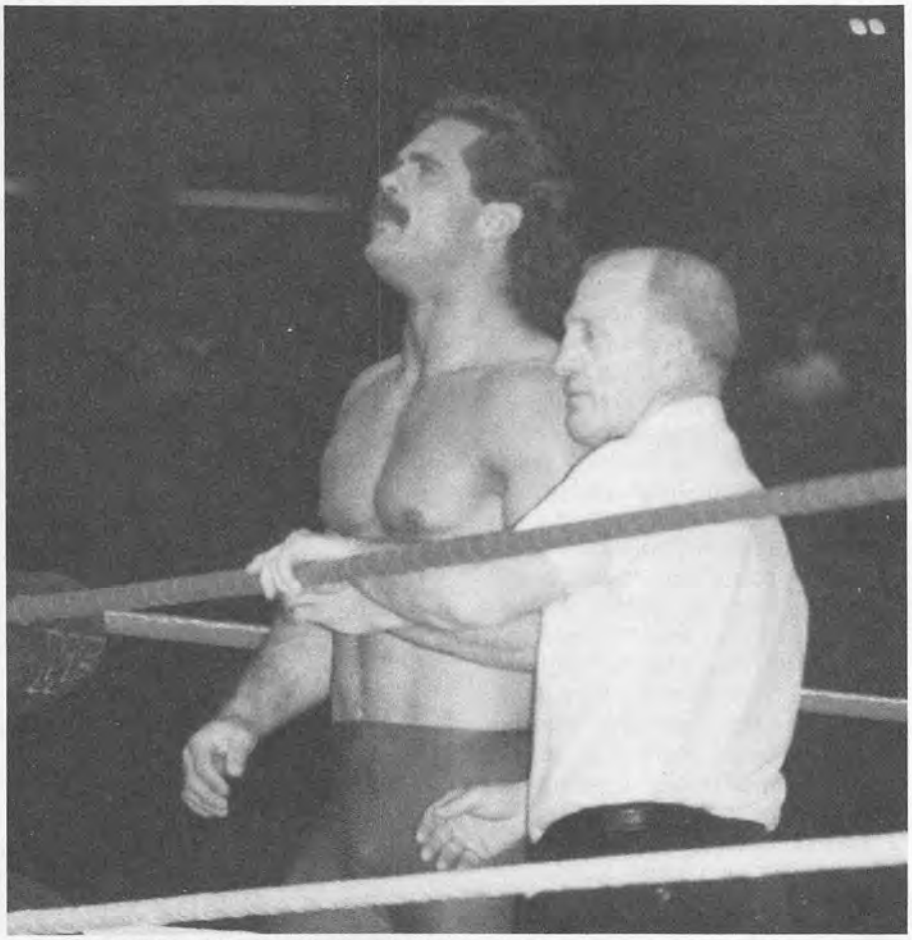


***Rude, along with Manny Fernandez held the NWA tag team title.***

Robert Gibson was injured early on in the match, thus necessitating Ricky Morton to handle the brunt of the action which lasted nearly an hour. Rick methodically weakened the right arm of Morton from constant pounding, to the point where it became limp. The legacy of the Rock 'n Roll Express came to a shocking halt that night in Atlanta, Georgia. Rude put the pinning situation to a finish, when Ricky was rolled up into a small package. Finally, a world recognized championship title was Rude's to claim.

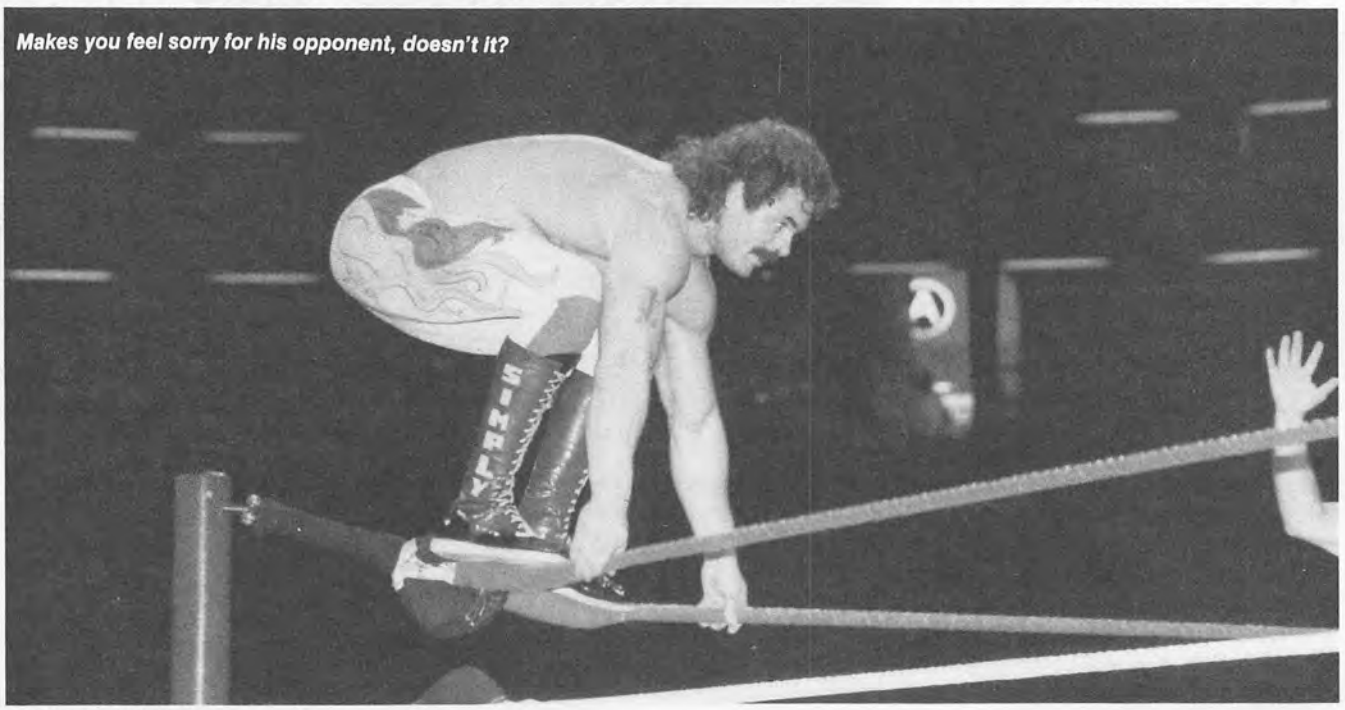
With all the attention and sex appeal many say he gives off, Rick Rude has become the man women love and men fear and dislike. Perhaps the main motive behind their ill will stems from jealousy. After all, there now wasn't much of anything that he couldn't have with the snap of a finger. Rude doesn't fit the wrestler stereotype. He's not missing any teeth and there's no bulging belly or receding hairline. There are some fans, especially the females, who say Rick is too handsome to be participating in such a dangerous sport. One devoted "Ravishing" Rick fan described him as having the face of Tom Selleck and the body of a smaller Arnold Schwartzenegger.

The impossible happened. After whipping the Brad Armstrongs, Dusty Rhodes and Ron Garvins, Rick Rude became bored of his situation. The list of top challengers dwindled. Opponents of less quality and experience were being thrown in the ring with Rick and Manny. While still co-holder of the tag team belts, Rude left the NWA for the WWF. "It took a lot more guts than people gave him credit for to make that big jump. Rick recognized the lucrative contract that was dangling in front of him should he enter the WWF and let me take control of his career. He's disappointed no one. Rick is a much better technical wrestler than most so-called experts give him credit for," Bobby Heenan proclaimed.



*Are you looking at the next Heavyweight champion?*

Established WWF stars such as Tito Santana, Jim Duggan and Brutus Beefcake found out first hand that Rick Rude is every bit as mean as he is handsome. On more than one occasion each of the three wrestlers have fallen victim to the "Rude Awakening," having their necks snapped back and coming close to permanent injury. The dessert of his matches, after his opponents lay flat on their back, as some view it, is when Heenan "selects" sensual, attractive women from each building in which Rude appears, and allows

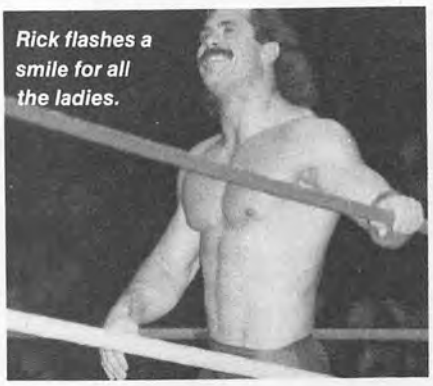


*Makes you feel sorry for his opponent, doesn't it?*

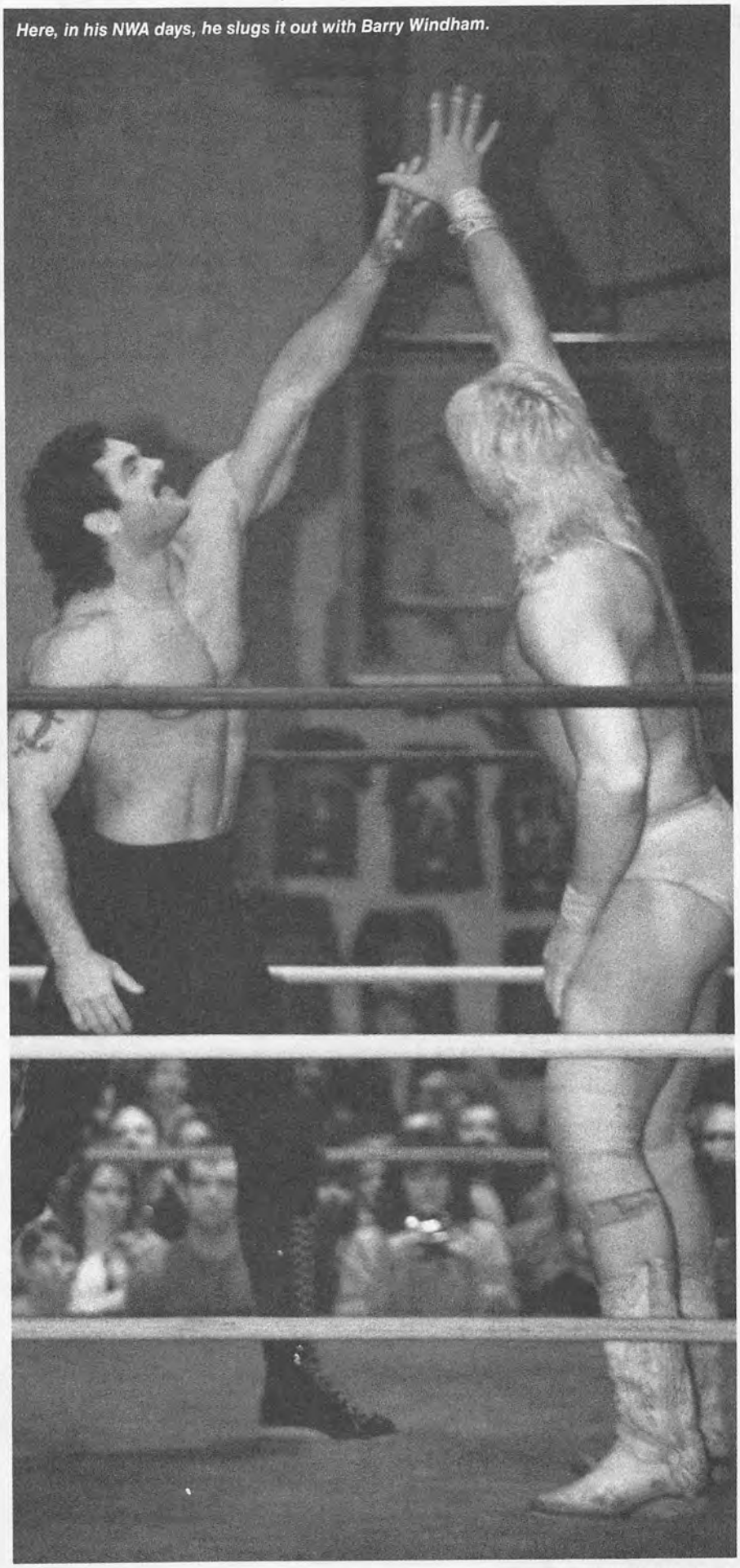
his star to give them a different kind of "Rude Awakening." Seductive, graphic kisses given to the ladies by Rick almost always ends in them falling to his feet, impressed and weakened by his other personal talents.

Even though he continues to be preoccupied with other top talent in his quest for a WWF title shot, his feud with Jake "The Snake" Roberts and his wife Cheryl Roberts just won't die. Cheryl, while sitting at ringside refused to kiss Rude after being selected by Heenan for a "Rude Awakening." She has since been singled out by the "Ravishing One" as a slut. To make matters even worse, Rick twisted Mrs. Roberts' arm until "The Snake" came to her defense. Whether in singles or tag competition, the hatred between these two wrestlers seems to be headed for a cage match to finally put the explosive situation to rest once and for all.

Currently, Rude is paired with Andre the Giant, squaring off against Tito Santana and Jake Roberts. The "Odd Couple" duo of Rude and the Giant thus far has worked surprisingly well for two men of totally different mat approaches. Also, with Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson reunited with Rude from their NWA days together, there are so many professional possibilities for him to chase. Rick Rude is in control of his own destiny. Always finding time to train and do all he can to remain in tip-top condition, pride and the thought of a challenge is what keeps him interested in his craft. Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage and The Ultimate Warrior are his prime targets. After toppling them, who knows where Rick will venture off to. However, one thing is for sure, it will be further up the ladder of wrestling.



*Rick flashes a smile for all the ladies.*

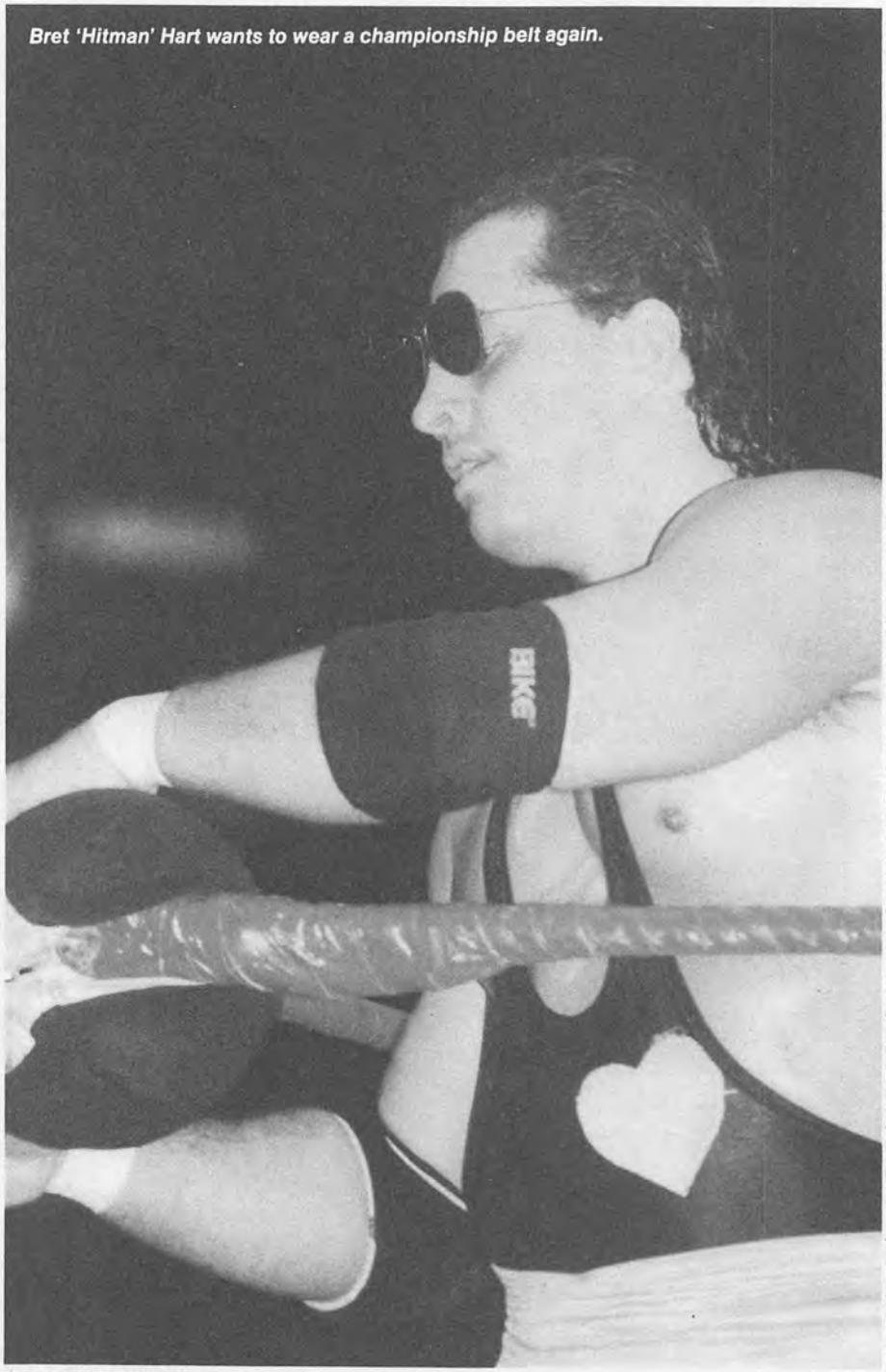


*Here, in his NWA days, he slugs it out with Barry Windham.*

# The Hart Foundation

## Are The Rougeaus Holding Them Back?

**By Tom Clutters**

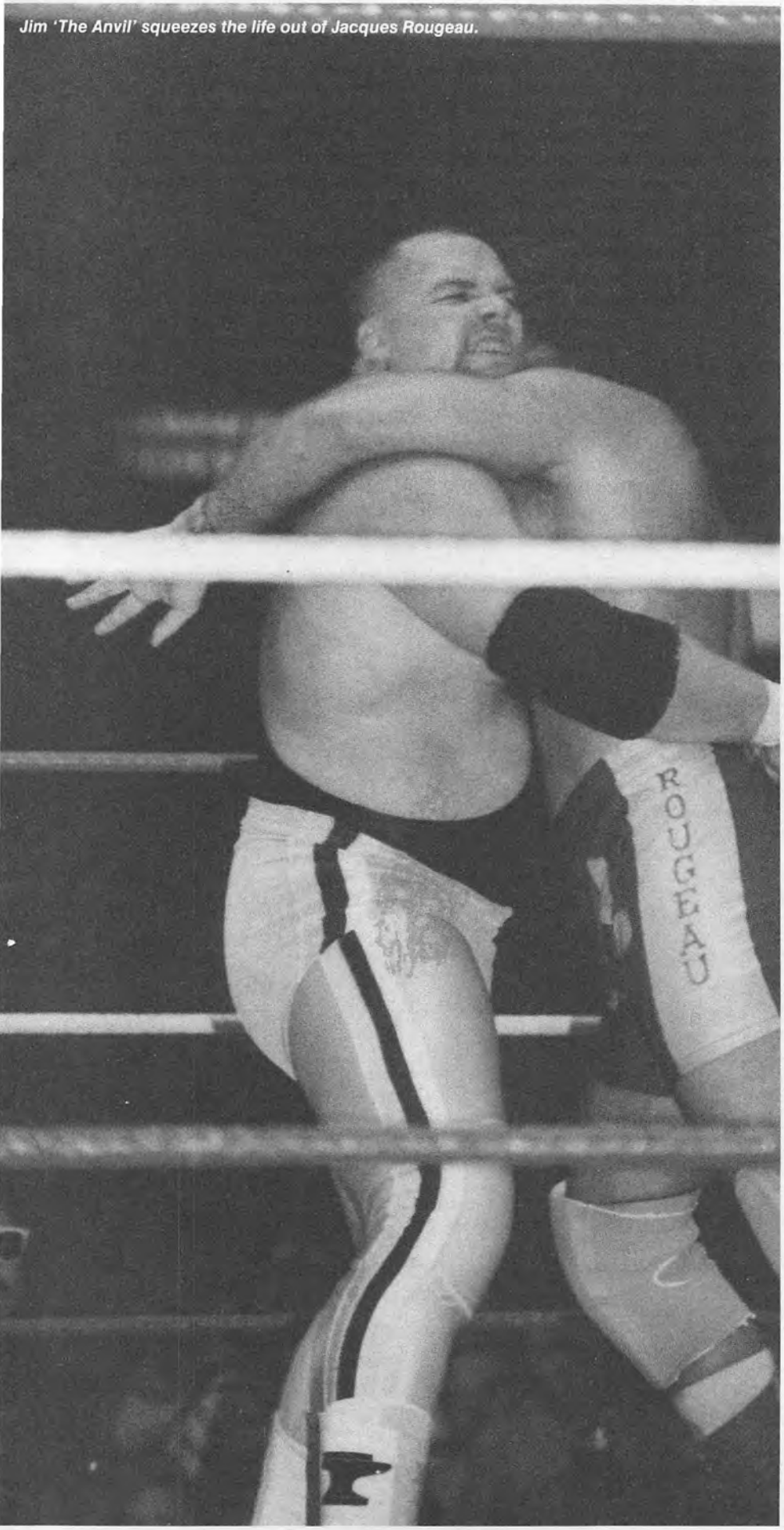



*Bret 'Hitman' Hart wants to wear a championship belt again.*

Someone once said that, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Well, this age-old saying describes one of the World Wrestling Federation's hottest feuds perfectly.

For almost two years, the WWF has been the scene of an on again, off again battle between the Hart Foundation and the Fabulous Rougeau brothers. The conflict first heated up after the Foundation, namely Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and Bret "Hitman" Hart won the WWF tag team titles from the British Bulldogs on January 26, 1987. Jacques and Raymond Rougeau were one of the first teams to challenge the new champions, and the two teams engaged in a thrilling series of matches through the summer. Now, in 1989, the Harts and the Rougeaus are still at it, but the circumstances are different.

The relationship between the Foundation and their manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, began to deteriorate following a title loss to Strike Force on October 27, 1987. Jimmy Hart, who had taken most of the credit for making Jim and Bret into champions in the first place, walked a dangerous tightrope, trying to keep his men happy with promises of a rematch, while also denying responsibility for the loss. Through mid-1988, rumors of dissention appeared almost weekly. In late summer, the Anvil and the Hitman began appearing without their manager at ringside, signaling a split in the ranks. During one nationally televised match, Jimmy came to the ring, only to be chased off by his former charges. Dismissing Hart brought the Foundation almost immediate adoration from the fans.




*Jim 'The Anvil' squeezes the life out of Jacques Rougeau.*

There were two important factors to consider about the Hart Foundation going solo. Many pointed out that neither Jim nor Bret had done much in the sport before hiring Jimmy Hart as manager. "Let's face it, Hitman and Neidhart were nothing before Jimmy got ahold of them," said one veteran writer. "Before Jimmy came along, they weren't much more than preliminary wrestlers struggling to get along. He molded them into a championship caliber team, and I seriously doubt they'll go very far without him."

Also mentioned was the fact that, even though they had fired him, Jim and Bret were still under contract with Jimmy, and a percentage of their earnings would still fall into his pocket. This factor would come back to haunt the former champions later.

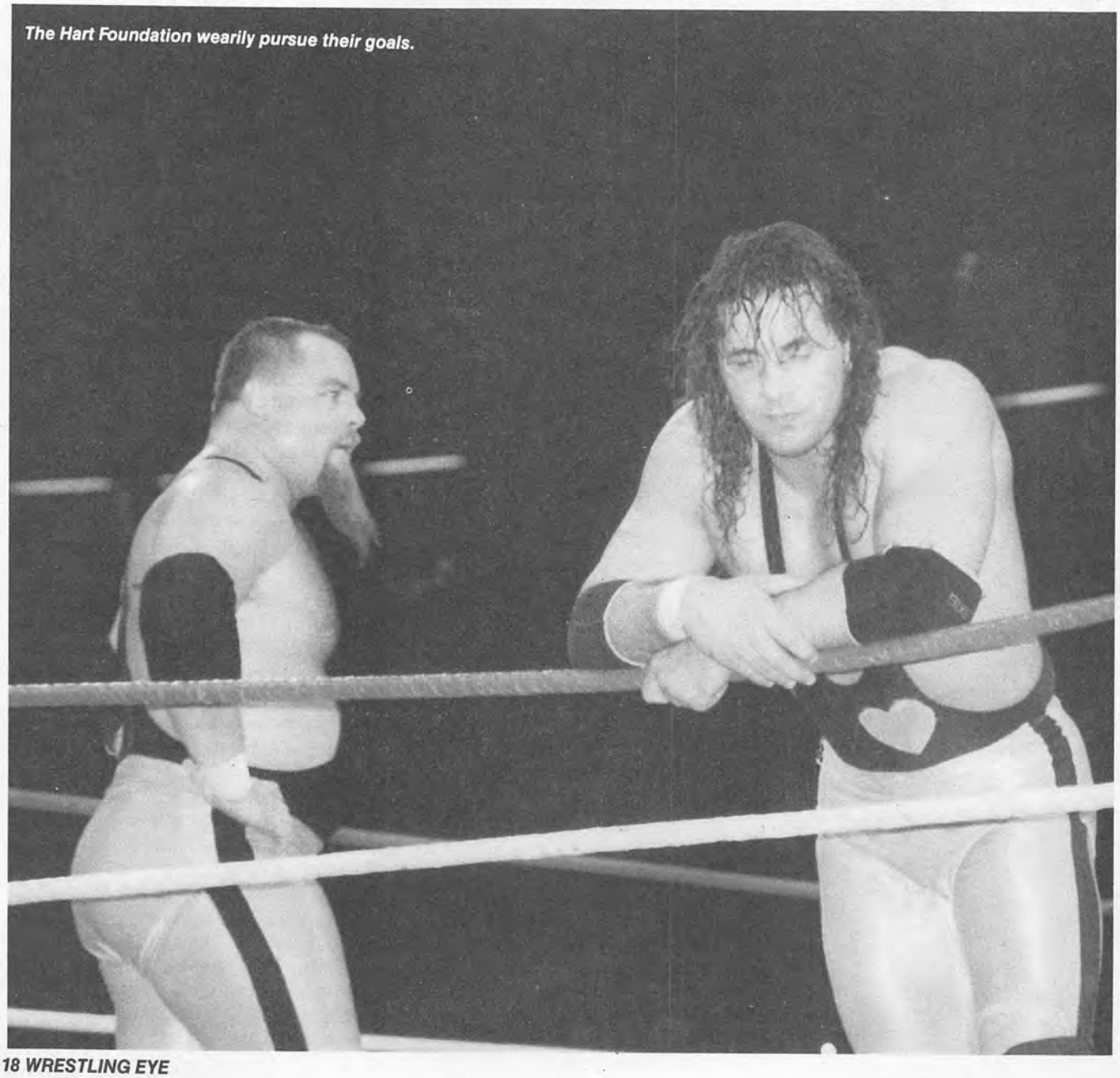
Enter Jacques and Raymond Rougeau once again. During the time the Hart Foundation and their manager were trying to work out their troubles, the Rougeaus were smoothly coasting along, watching the whole situation. While the popularity of the Foundation was growing, the Rougeaus' fan following began to dwindle, due mostly to their bogus pro-American attitude and their increasing use of shortcuts to win their matches. Slowly but surely, the roles in the Hart Foundation/Fabulous Rougeaus drama were reversing. Even their most ardent fans could not understand the new arrogance on the part of Jacques and Raymond, but one friend of the Canadian duo insists that it all started in August of 1987. "I can remember that match like it was yesterday," said the friend. "The Rougeaus felt like they got the royal shaft in that match, and they never forgot it."

The match in question took place on August 10, in Montreal in front of over 18,000 of Jacques and Raymond's fellow countrymen. It was one of the last of the series of title defenses for the Hart Foundation against the Rougeaus, and many felt the home crowd might give the challengers the little extra edge. It was a fairly even match until, with all four men in the ring, Jimmy Hart climbed onto the ring apron with his megaphone in hand. Jimmy had planned to smack Raymond with the weapon,

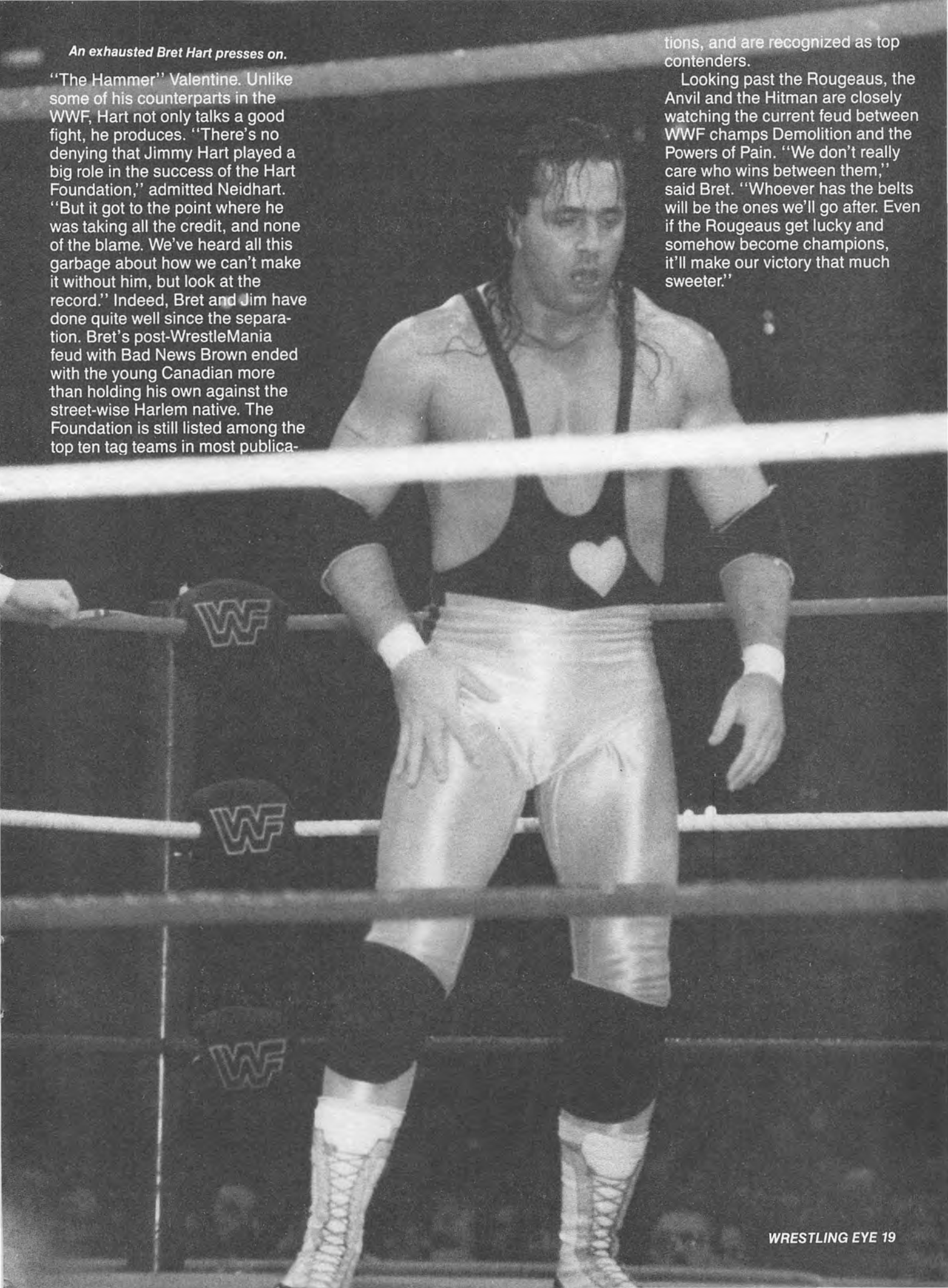
but Rougeau ducked, and Jimmy wound up knocking Bret out instead. Raymond fell on the Hitman for the pin, and the brothers celebrated their new titles. Unfortunately, WWF President Jack Tunney, after reviewing the tapes of the match the next day, ruled that Raymond was not the legal man in the ring, and therefore the pinfall did not count. "It was a little hard for Jacques and Raymond to swallow. They had beat the Hart Foundation at their own game, and got penalized for it," said the friend.

Apparently, it was just after this event that the Rougeaus began to adopt a "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" attitude. Meanwhile, the Harts were in conflict with their manager, and eventually, the unthinkable happened. The Rougeaus announced that they were going to hire a manager to attend to their affairs, and it turned out to be Jimmy Hart who got the job. Not only did Jimmy promise to reveal all the weaknesses of his former team, he rubbed additional salt in the open wound by announcing that the money he was due from the Hart Foundation under his old contract would be paid directly to the Rougeaus. In effect, when the two teams met, Jacques and Raymond would not only receive their own money, but would also get a percentage of the Hart Foundation's payoff. This action by Jimmy Hart only added more fuel to an already raging fire. "It's like this. The only way we can keep the Rougeau brothers from taking any of our money is to get rid of them completely," said the Anvil. "And that's just exactly what we're gonna do," added Bret, "Jimmy Hart is nothing but a little worm that's going to be crushed. Jimmy Hart and that slime he manages are marked men, and the Anvil and the Hitman are the ones going to do the marking. You can count on that!"

No matter what the people think of him, Jimmy Hart is a proven winner. In addition to helping make the Foundation into champions, he took another non-winner (the Honky Tonk Man) and turned him into the longest reigning Intercontinental champion of all time. Also, Jimmy has been credited with making a star of former referee Danny Davis, and took over and revitalized the sliding career of Greg



*The Hart Foundation wearily pursue their goals.*



*An exhausted Bret Hart presses on.*

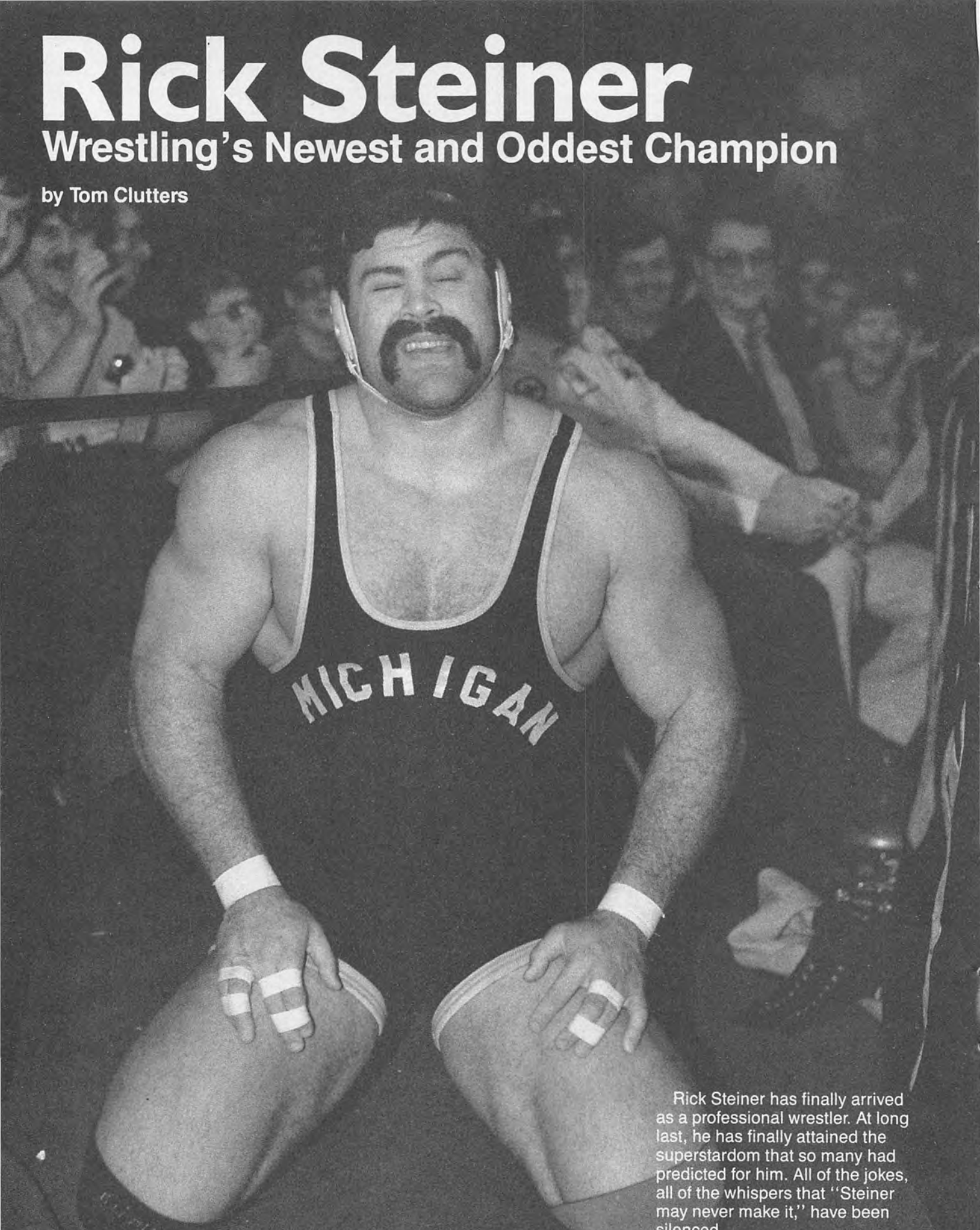
"The Hammer" Valentine. Unlike some of his counterparts in the WWF, Hart not only talks a good fight, he produces. "There's no denying that Jimmy Hart played a big role in the success of the Hart Foundation," admitted Neidhart. "But it got to the point where he was taking all the credit, and none of the blame. We've heard all this garbage about how we can't make it without him, but look at the record." Indeed, Bret and Jim have done quite well since the separation. Bret's post-WrestleMania feud with Bad News Brown ended with the young Canadian more than holding his own against the street-wise Harlem native. The Foundation is still listed among the top ten tag teams in most publications, and are recognized as top contenders.

Looking past the Rougeaus, the Anvil and the Hitman are closely watching the current feud between WWF champs Demolition and the Powers of Pain. "We don't really care who wins between them," said Bret. "Whoever has the belts will be the ones we'll go after. Even if the Rougeaus get lucky and somehow become champions, it'll make our victory that much sweeter."

# Rick Steiner

## Wrestling's Newest and Oddest Champion

by Tom Clutters




*Rick Steiner, the T.V. champ, gets on his knees after winning the championship.*

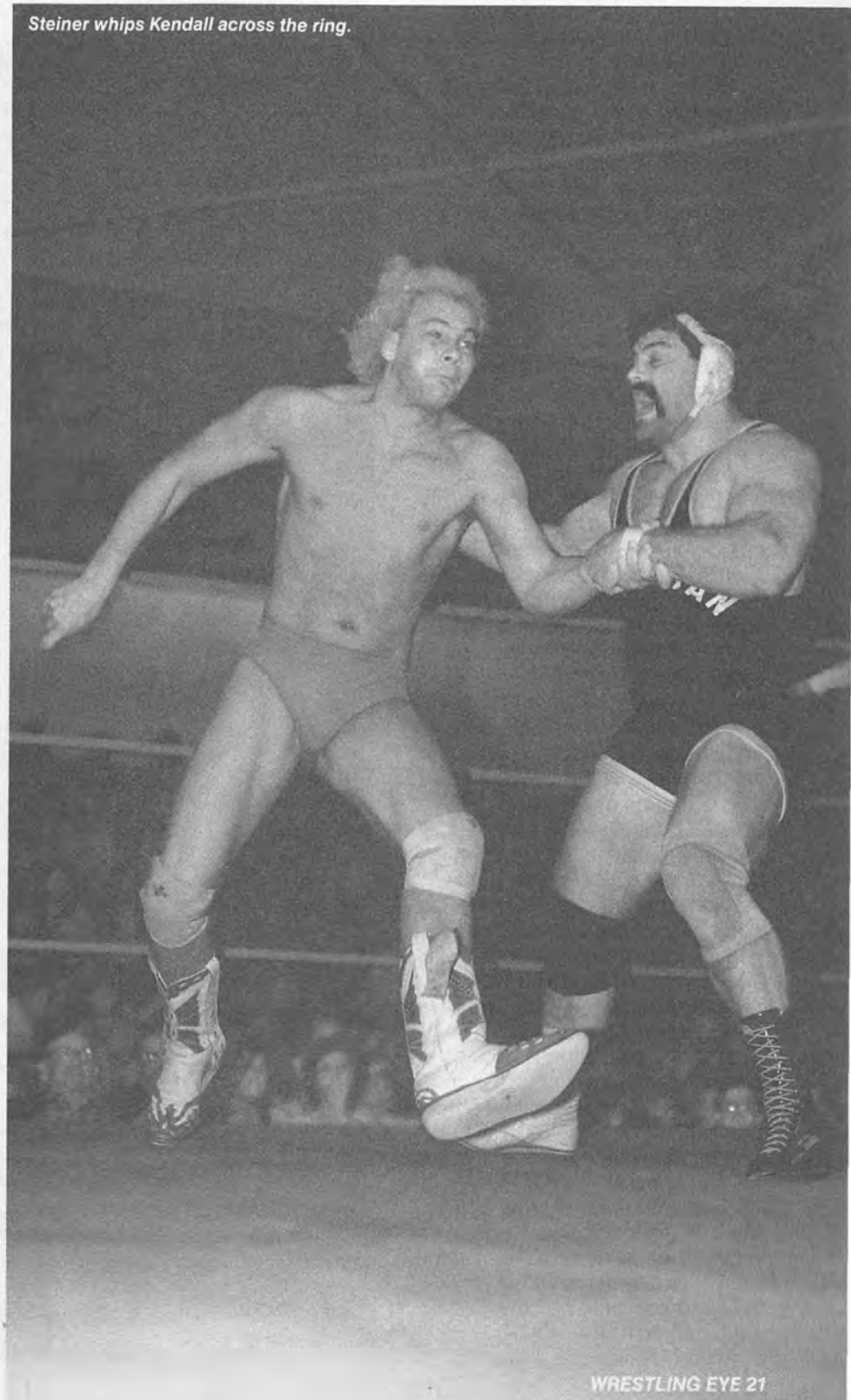
Rick Steiner has finally arrived as a professional wrestler. At long last, he has finally attained the superstardom that so many had predicted for him. All of the jokes, all of the whispers that "Steiner may never make it," have been silenced.

It all came together for Rick Steiner on the evening of Decem-

ber 26 during Starrcade '88 in Roanoake, VA. For it was on that night that the young former University of Michigan star defeated Mike Rotunda for the NWA World Television title. Not only did he pin his ex-partner, he out-wrestled and even out-thought him. For the majority of his career, the possibility of Steiner out-thinking any opponent was unlikely. But the night after Christmas was different. "I told ya. I told ya I could beat Mike Rotunda," said a jubilant Steiner after the match. "Nobody believed me, except for Alex, but I told ya I could do it!"

Before a packed house and in front of a nationwide pay per view audience, the two former Varsity Club teammates squared off in a much-anticipated contest. With VC mentor Kevin Sullivan locked in a cage suspended high above the ring, Rotunda was forced to back up his claim to being the Club's premier member. It was clear early on that Steiner had prepared himself well. Each and every Rotunda move was skillfully countered, and Mike's frustration was evident as he rolled from the ring on several occasions to escape Steiner's onslaught. No matter what Rotunda tried, Steiner was ready. For more than half the match, Steiner was in complete control. With about ten minutes remaining, a desperate Rotunda grabbed Steiner as he came off the ropes, and flung him from the ring. In a split second, Rick went between the second and top ropes, did a somersault, and crashed onto the floor. Long-time wrestling observers commented that it was the hardest fall they had ever seen anyone take, and ringsiders gasped in concern for Steiner's well being.

Although stunned, Rick was uninjured by the fall, but the incident allowed Rotunda to gain the upper hand for the first time. However, after a couple minutes, Steiner began to recover his senses, and once again began to take control of the champion. With less than five minutes remaining, it was clearly apparent that Rotunda was doomed without help. While the two combatants struggled, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, the Varsity Club's newest member, suddenly appeared at ringside, taking up a position next to the timekeeper's table. Steiner, apparently not noticing, continued his quest for victory with a devastating clothesline, a powerslam, and then delivered an awesome belly-to-belly suplex which normally would have spelled the end for Rotunda. However, just as referee Teddy Long was tolling the three count, the bell rang, signaling the end of the match. All three men in the ring looked around in confusion. Long raised Rotunda's hand, thinking the match had ended. "I just thought the match was over. I knew we were pretty close to the time limit, but I didn't know what had happened until Tommy told me," said Long. The "Tommy" was NWA senior official Tommy Young, who rushed to the ring to point out that it had been Williams, not the time-



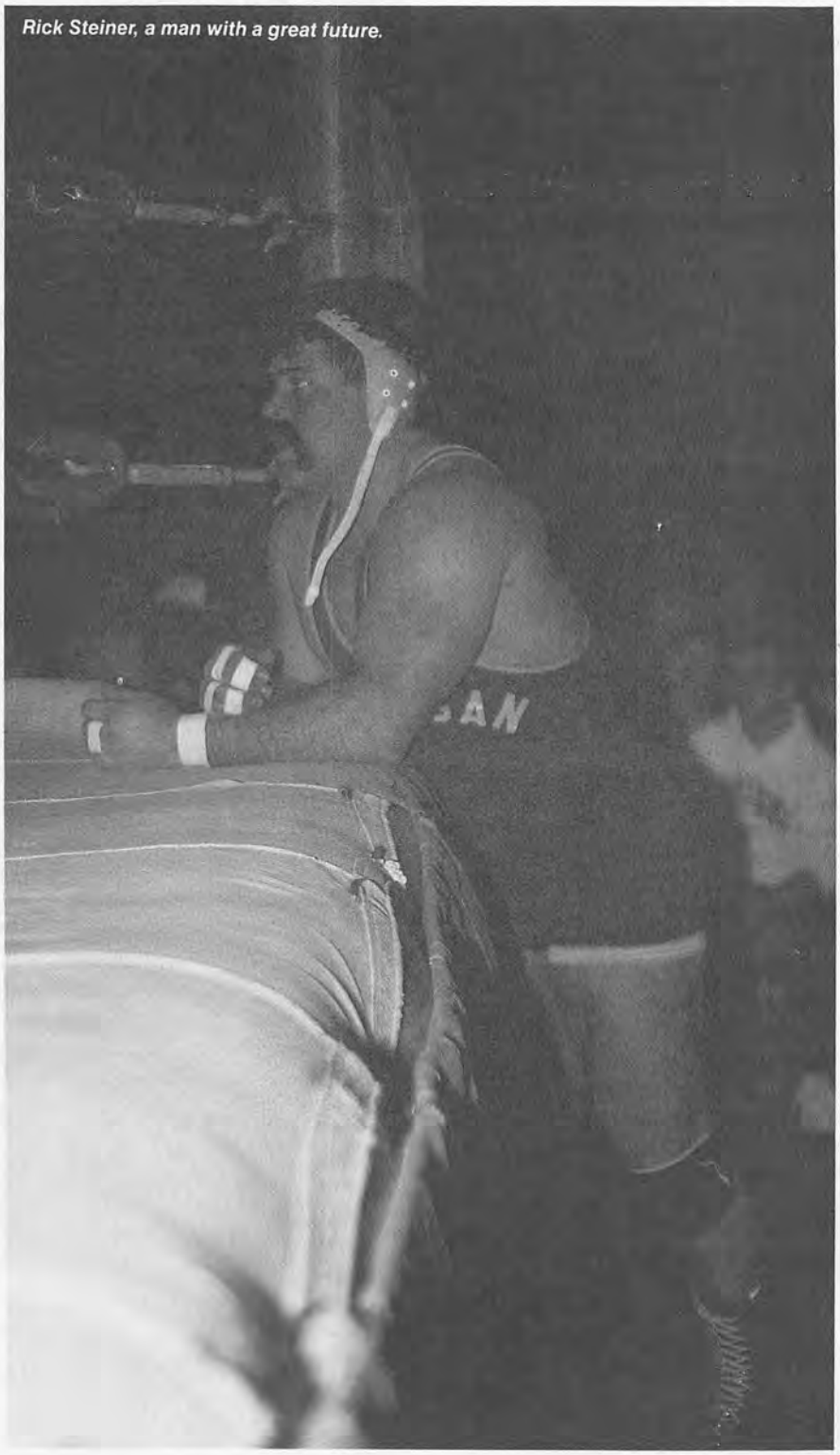
*Steiner whips Kendall across the ring.*

keeper, who had rung the bell. Meanwhile, a ringside attendant had lowered the cage containing Sullivan, who was now on the ring apron, arguing with Young. When Long declared that the match should continue, Rotunda attacked Steiner from behind. He attempted to throw Rick across the ring, but Steiner reversed the move, and as Young ducked away, Rotunda was sent crashing into his manager. Steiner then applied a pin, and scored the victory.

In the dressing room following the match, an overjoyed Steiner was almost in tears. "Man, this is great. This is great," he repeated. "I told my mom that Alex an' me could do it. I promised her, and I did it!" When asked about how much of a role Alex (his manager—a painted face on his left hand) had played, Steiner replied, "Hey, Alex watched my back, he told me what to do. He's the best manager anyone could ever have."

It was a sullen trio in the Varsity Club dressing area as Rotunda, Sullivan and Williams reviewed what had happened. "This is truly a sad time for the National Wrestling Alliance," commented Sullivan. "For a title as prestigious as the World Television title to be held by an idiot like Steiner is a disgrace. I will take the blame for a slight miscalculation, though. I didn't believe Steiner was smart enough to get the officials working on his side, but that's just exactly what he did." When confronted about the role of Dr. Death in the outcome, the Gamesmaster was typically evasive. "Dr. Death came down to get a closer view of the match. When the time limit was expired, he noticed that the timekeeper wasn't paying attention, so Doc had to do his job for him. He rang the bell and walked away. He knew the match was over. He didn't know that Tommy Young was going to cheat the Varsity Club. Now, the NWA has a stupid champion who talks to his hand. That's an absolute disgrace, but let me tell you something. The Varsity Club will not rest until that belt is back where it belongs. And not only will we get it back, we'll eliminate Rick Steiner from the NWA. And you know full well the Varsity Club can do it!"

According to Funk & Wagnall's, the term "checkered" means, "divided into light and dark patches; marked by alterations." Such a term would almost perfectly describe the five-year pro mat career of Rick Steiner. Since turning to the professional ranks in 1985 following an All-America career at Michigan, he has had more than his share of ups and downs. After a modest beginning working for a couple of Canadian organizations, he moved to the highly-competitive UWF, where his multiple skills began to develop. In late 1986, he began to team with a man named Sting, under the managerial guidance of Eddie Gilbert. On April 2, 1987, they won the UWF tag team belts from Chris Adams and Terry Taylor. "Yeah, Sting, he was pretty good and so was I. We scared a lot of people," said Steiner. Their title reign, however, lasted only a

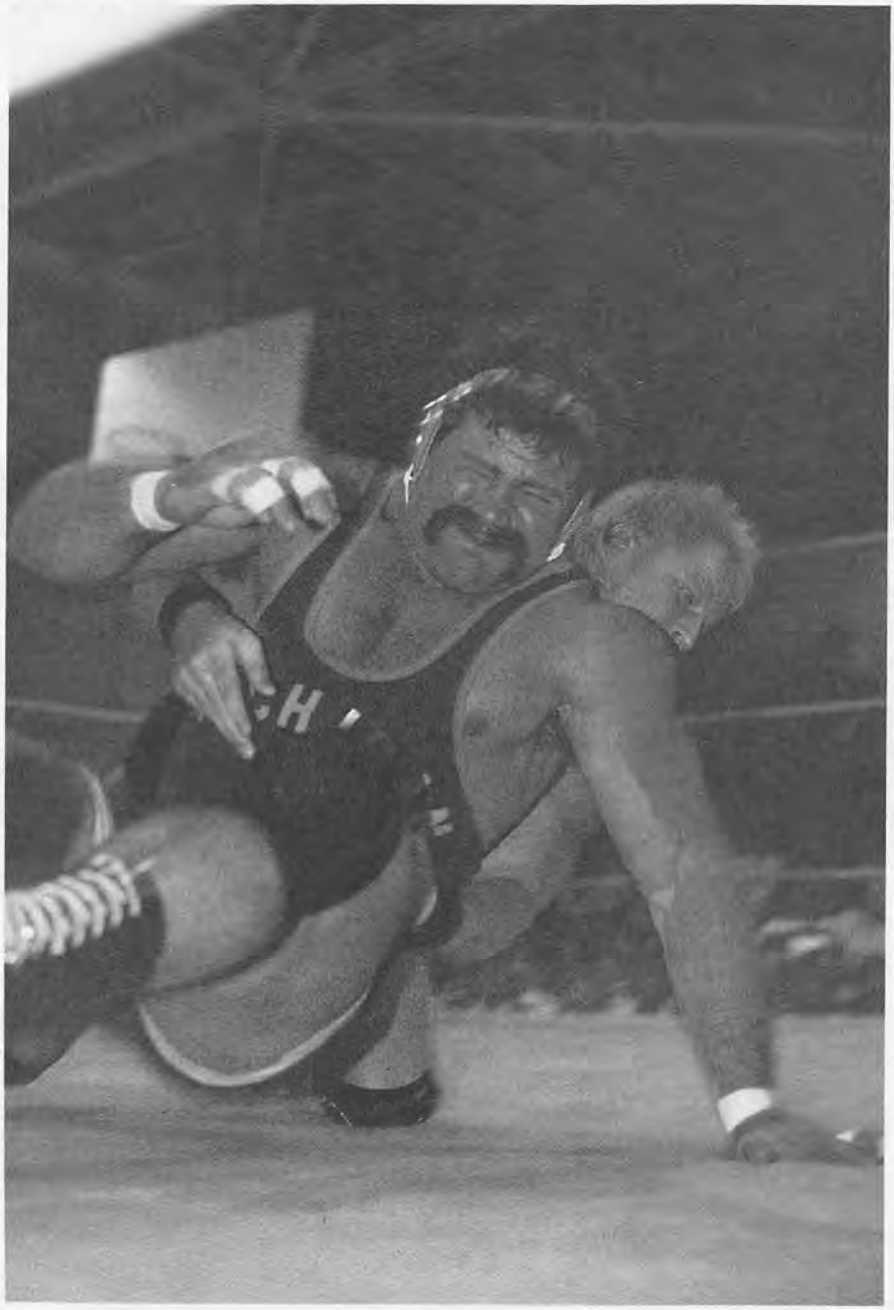


*Rick Steiner, a man with a great future.*

month, and the team eventually split up.

When the UWF merged with the NWA, Steiner came along, but was rarely used on anything but the undercards, while the Stinger's career began to take off. After struggling for several weeks in the NWA, Steiner suddenly found himself being "scouted" by Kevin Sullivan, who was also looking closely at another youngster named Mike Rotunda. After weeks of intensive training and "education" Steiner and Rotunda were unveiled by Sullivan as his "Varsity Club," a team which he promised would dominate the NWA scene. "Naw, Kevin ain't a genius," says Steiner. "He just knows how to make bad things sound good. Him and Mike did all the talking, and I had to do all of the work." The VC made its first major impression during the 1988 Crockett Cup, where they advanced to the quarterfinals before bowing to the Fantastics. Although the team enjoyed success, there was always the constant bickering between Steiner and Rotunda, and despite Sullivan's claims that the disagreements were only "family spats," the rift grew steadily wider. "Mike's got a big mouth. He was always sayin' that he was number one in the Varsity Club, but he knew I was better than him," said Rick. "But every time I'd try to say somethin', they'd gang up on me."

*A great technical wrestler as well as a brawler.*



With the arrival of Steve Williams in the Club, Steiner had had enough. Enough of the humiliation, the put-downs. Enough of being treated like a second class citizen by his "friends." The potentially explosive situation erupted into a full-scale war, with sides clearly drawn. "Dr. Death, ha, he ain't nothin'," stated Steiner. "I beat him, I can beat Retardo, and I can beat Kevin Sullivan. They're gonna pay for all the bad stuff they done to me!" With alter-ego Alex at his beck and call, Steiner took up the challenge, by himself if necessary. But one thing Rick did discover—he had friends. Besides the fans, who embraced the "Dogfaced Gremlin" with gusto, Rick found old acquaintances willing to help. "I've already talked to Rick, and anytime he needs me, all he has to do is call," said Sting. "Wow, Steiner and Sting back together again! Kevin Sullivan's gonna be one unhappy dude!" The man who may well play the most important role in Steiner's future, however, is former mentor Eddie Gilbert, who after years as a hated rulebreaker, is now extremely popular in the NWA. "I never lost track of Rick. I always kept an eye on what he was doing, even though we were working in different areas," said "Hot Stuff." "We had a basically good relationship, and we've both got our priorities in order. I might manage him again, if he wants me to. Or, he could team with me, Sting, or Ron Simmons. We all have one thing in common. We want to get rid of the Varsity Club."

With the NWA's promise to bring in more young talent in 1989, there also exists the possibility of Rick being united with his younger brother Scott, who currently works for the AWA/CWA group. "Scottie's gettin' to be pretty good. Almost as good as me," Rick admitted. "If he did come here, big brother would look out for him."

At any rate, the career of Rick Steiner is on the way up. He has broken his ties with Sullivan, and now has friends he can count on. Those factors, combined with his extraordinary talent, can only mean good things for this special young man in the future.

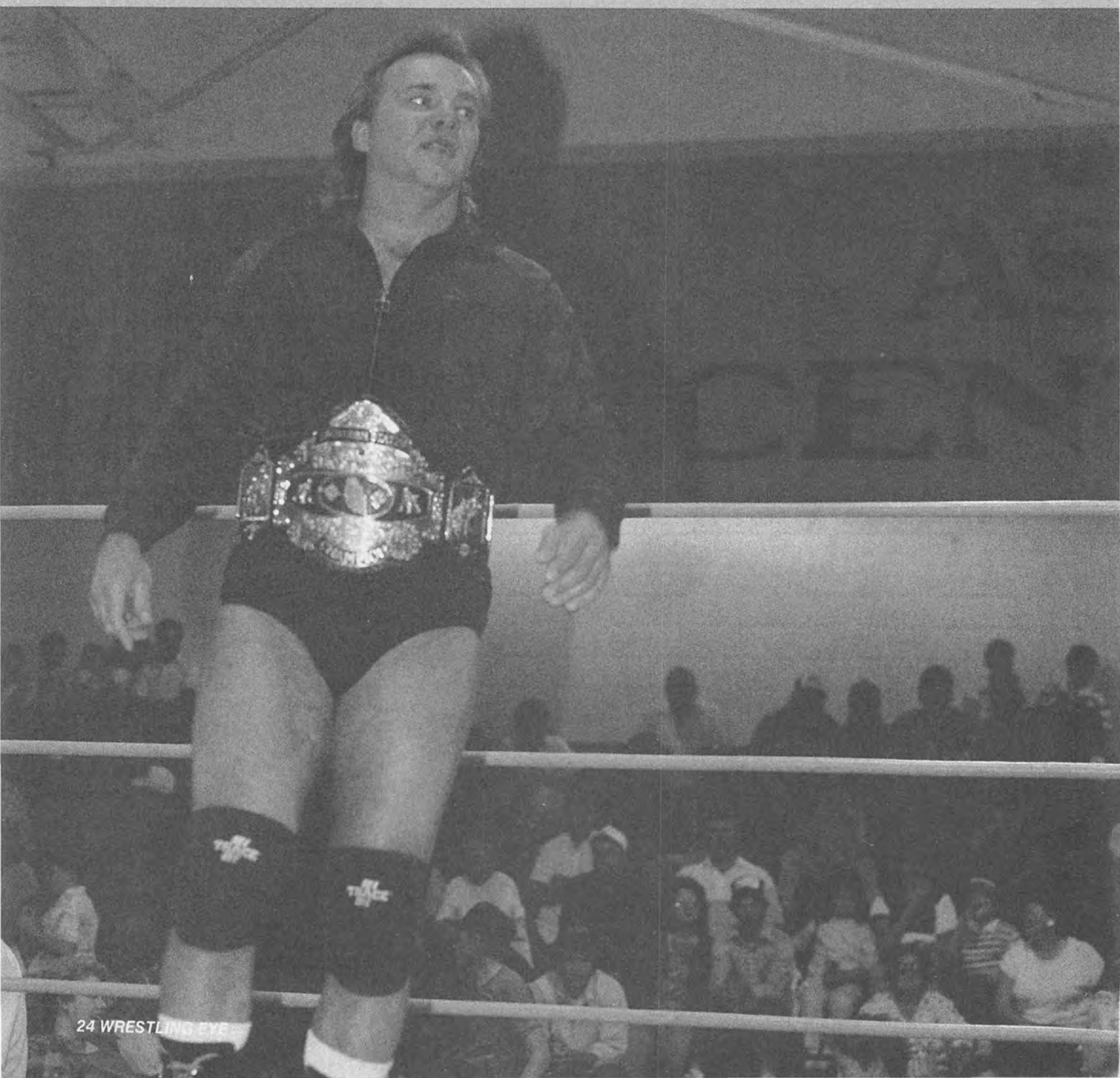
# FOCUS ON— LARRY ZBYSZKO

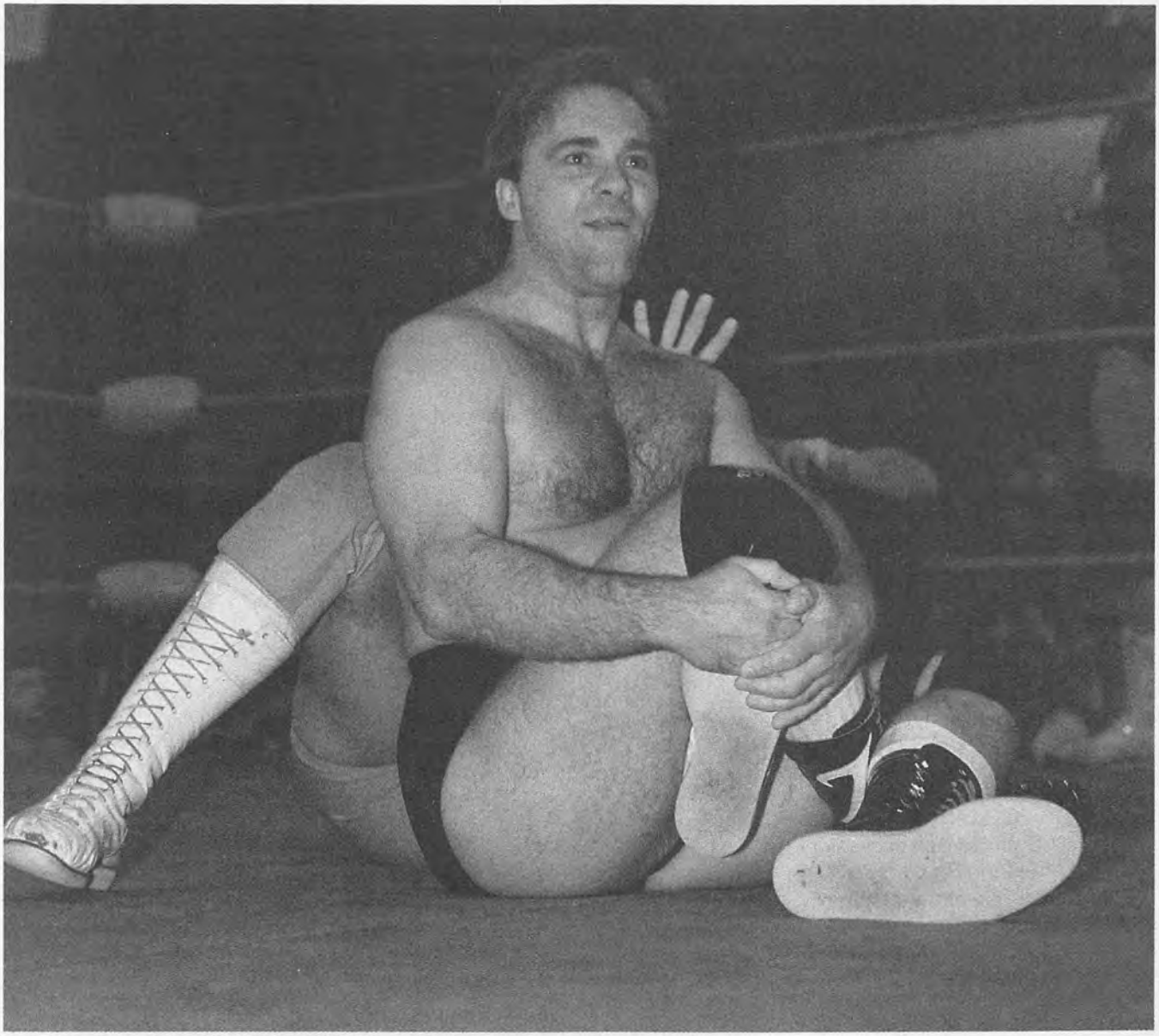
## LOST IN THE N.W.A.

by Don Laible

photos by Broderick Sheperd

*Larry Zbyszko is the current Western States champ.*





*Larry clamps a side headlock on a weary opponent.*

He's used to getting what he wants. Intimidation is a key weapon in his wrestling arsenal. Once the "darling" of the wrestling world, now the mere mention of his name is enough to ignite an argument. Controversy has shadowed his ring performances since his falling out with his mentor Bruno Sammartino. On his own, choosing his career options and making no apologies for how he gets it done, best sums up the continuing saga of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Larry Zbyszko. There's no denying, a great many bold, antagonizing statements have been coming from Zbyszko as of late. Frustration and disappointment concerning his current hitch with the National Wrestling Alliance have transformed Zbyszko into a desperate man.

As a fellow wrestler put the situation in proper perspective by labeling the Pittsburgh native a "loaded gun" ready to be fired, several promoters and scores of fans concur. An opportunity to challenge "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair for his NWA heavyweight belt is his one and only goal. Until that chance presents itself, the NWA will suffer. Larry Zbyszko has become downright ruthless and obsessed with winning.

You bet he's frustrated. He has done all that can be expected of an athlete. He wins. Ron Simmons, Tommy Rogers and Kendall Windham have all had their unblemished records tarnished by a defeat at the hands of Larry Zbyszko. He's a bit deceiving. Larry isn't the fastest or the most muscular competitor in the NWA but he's as sly as a fox and able to withstand great amounts of punishment. No injury has yet been the deciding factor causing Zbyszko to miss bookings. During seventeen years as a pro, he's only missed seven matches, all due to inclement weather.

His resume mandates a championship match in the NWA. The ring "wars" he survived with Bruno Sammartino as his opponent are legendary. The majority of Bruno's challengers through the years are in agreement that after thirty minutes to an hour in the ring with the former two-time World Wrestling Federation Champion, there's no way a wrestler leaves the canvas not being a better, smarter athlete.

When you battle the best, the skills of the challengers tend to sharpen up. Zbyszko's skills be-

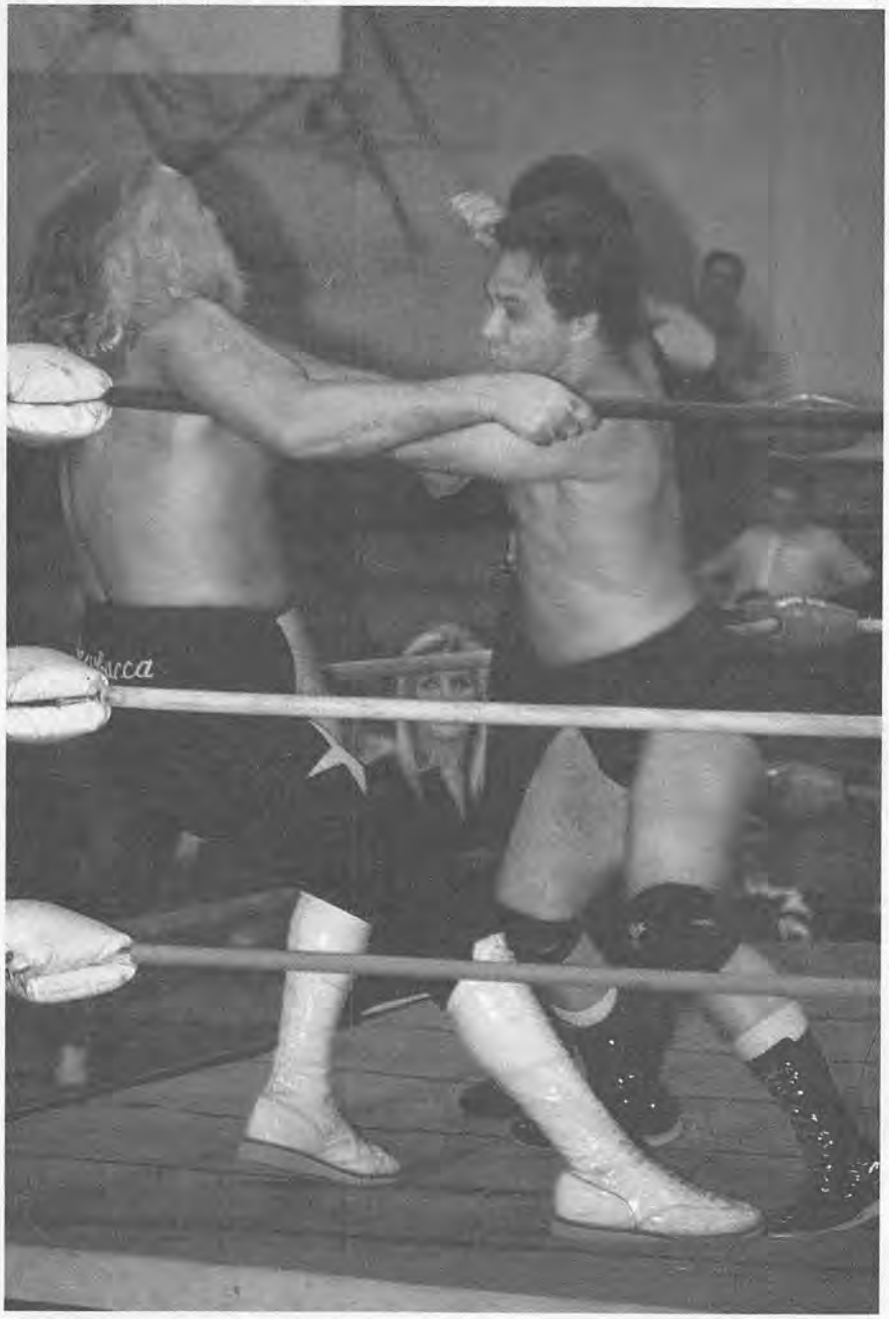
came razor sharp after his encounters with Bruno. He was so polished that the American Wrestling Association's America's title soon became his. Although currently crowned the NWA's Western States Heritage Champion, a belt recognized in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, Zbyszko's laurels have basically been ignored almost to the point of being disregarded. Sad to say the Western States title has fallen way down the status line with a network of promoters for reasons still unexplained.

"I've known him since he was in high school. He is a well-decorated amateur wrestler. One of the secrets to his success in wrestling is discipline. He goes about his business in the ring very methodically. Every move is executed with a definite motive. Bruno, Jerry DeFazio and myself assisted in training Larry. Since he was selected the WWF's rookie of the year in 1973, it's been one highlight after another for him. With Tony Garea he was co-holder of the Federation's tag team title. Haystack Calhoun and Dean Ho were two others whom Larry did well with in tag matches," Dominic DeNucci said from his Freedom, Pa. home.

Believe it or not, at the height of his blooming career on the mat, Zbyszko was seriously considering packing his ring gear for good to enter the Pennsylvania State Trooper's ranks. Following several big victories, and clearly back on the winning track, all other career changes were quickly squashed. However, since his debut, Zbyszko has appeared to be in the shadows of other notable personalities in the sport. Other than Sammartino while in the WWF, guys such as Tony Garea, Andre the Giant and Chief Jay Strongbow all were recipients of more publicity and more importantly, more meaningful matches by the organization's hierarchy. In the AWA, Greg Gagne, Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel all were put in front of the television cameras and in main events ahead of Larry Zbyszko. Don't misinterpret Zbyszko's feelings. Jealousy isn't involved here. It's just that various grapplers "pushed" ahead of him weren't necessarily more talented but may have been more friendly with those in powerful decision-making positions.

When not putting his Western States title on the line, Zbyszko has seriously been entertaining the thought of entering more tag team matches. After all, it's been that style of wrestling which has been both kind and lucrative for him. The two potential partners, although different in philosophies, he has expressed the most interest in to team up with are "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert and Kevin Sullivan. Gilbert appeals to Zbyszko due to his high levels of energy displayed on the canvas, while the almost masochistic, mauling actions of Sullivan excite him as well.

The thrill of victory and the sweet taste of success is something quite familiar to Zbyszko. The NWA and WWF aren't the only promotional bodies that he has soared to great heights in. In 1985 and 1986, Larry was a central figure in the Pro Wrestling USA group. The top stars from several parts of the United States and Canada combined forces for wrestling spectaculars held in major metropolitan arenas. In New Jersey's Meadowlands Arena, Sgt. Slaughter and Rick Martel both signed contracts to square off with Pittsburgh's finest. As talented as they are, neither of them walked back to the dressing room with their hand raised in victory over Larry.

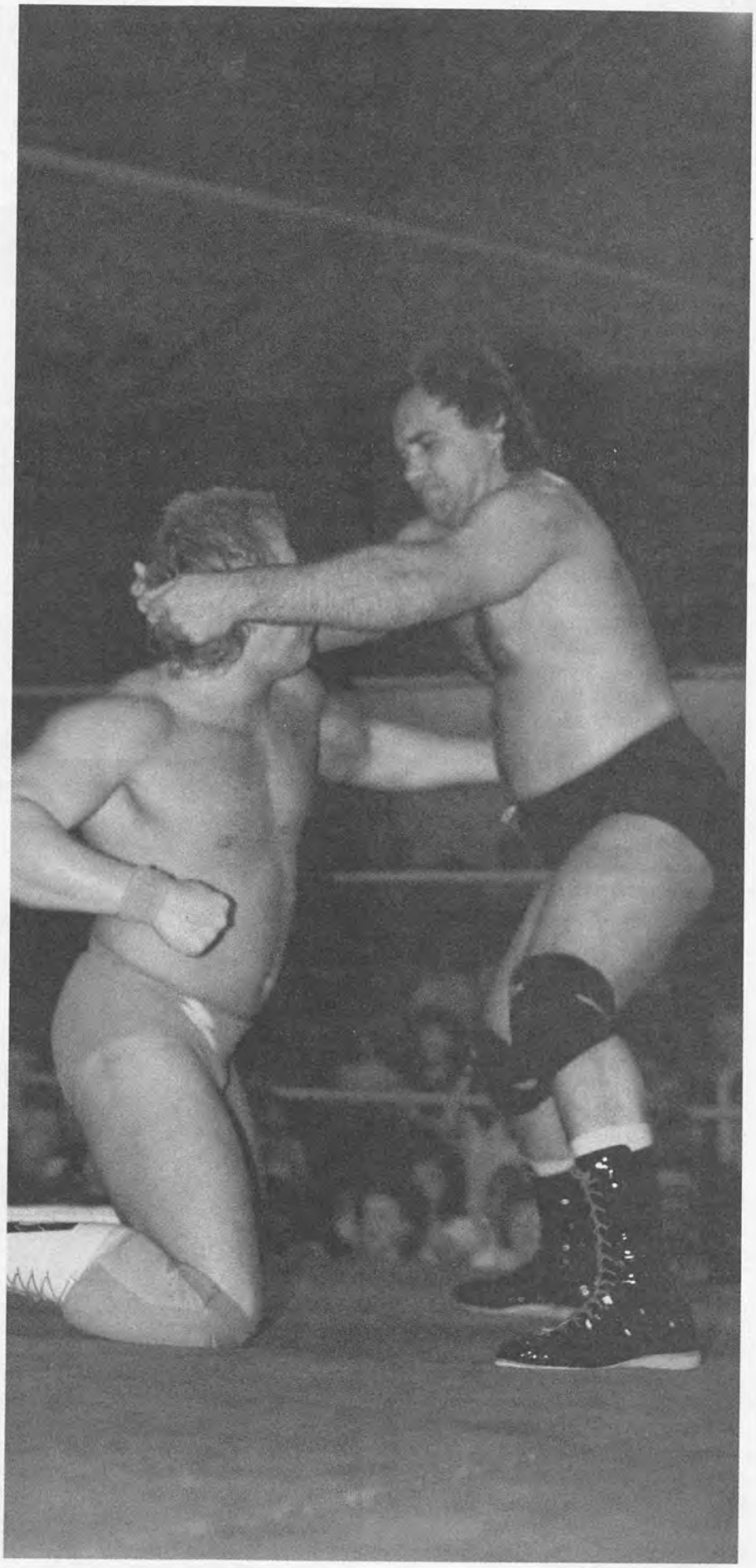


*Pounding away, Zbyszko is merciless.*

Between engagements with the AWA and NWA, Zbyszko toured the independent circuits throughout the Northeast. The International Wrestling Federation signed him to battle his former partner Tony Garea on several occasions. In Gardner, Massachusetts, the last time they both met, a riot nearly broke out. Garea and Zbyszko spent more time slugging one another outside the ring and into the ringside seating area. Special guest referee Walter "Killer" Kowalski not only disqualified both but at the same time was needed to subdue the fans who had taken up sides with Garea and began throwing chairs, cans and other objects at Zbyszko. "Larry's a tough, no-nonsense type of guy. There isn't a hold or trick he won't use to get the upper hand in a match. To make big bucks in wrestling, you have to keep winning. I've seen him give Giant Baba and Jumbo Tusuruta of Japan some of their toughest beatings. In every territory he has worked he became the top attraction. Larry enjoys wrestling too much to take up another trade," Kowalski commented.

After being suspended for life by AWA President Stanley Blackburn, Larry decided to put his skills to use in the NWA. That's where he has been for the past two years. Right from the start, to prove that he belonged with the "big boys," Zbyszko picked on Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff and Sting. Even after holding his own against such heralded stars, no title match, not even a mention of the possibility of one, has surfaced. "Good things come to those who wait. Until the NWA brass realizes the injustice they have committed by not allowing me an opportunity which I've earned, I'll be content just continuing to bust heads and break bones. I'll do whatever it takes to get Flair on the mat, just me, him and the referee to count when I pin him," Zbyszko promised.

With the NWA appearing in the Northeast, Larry Zbyszko is happy to be back wrestling in front of his "hometown" fans. Although the cheers have turned mostly to boos, one fact concerning him hasn't changed, the fans know they'll always get their money's worth of action. A professional in every sense of the word, Larry Zbyszko is a wrestler's wrestler.



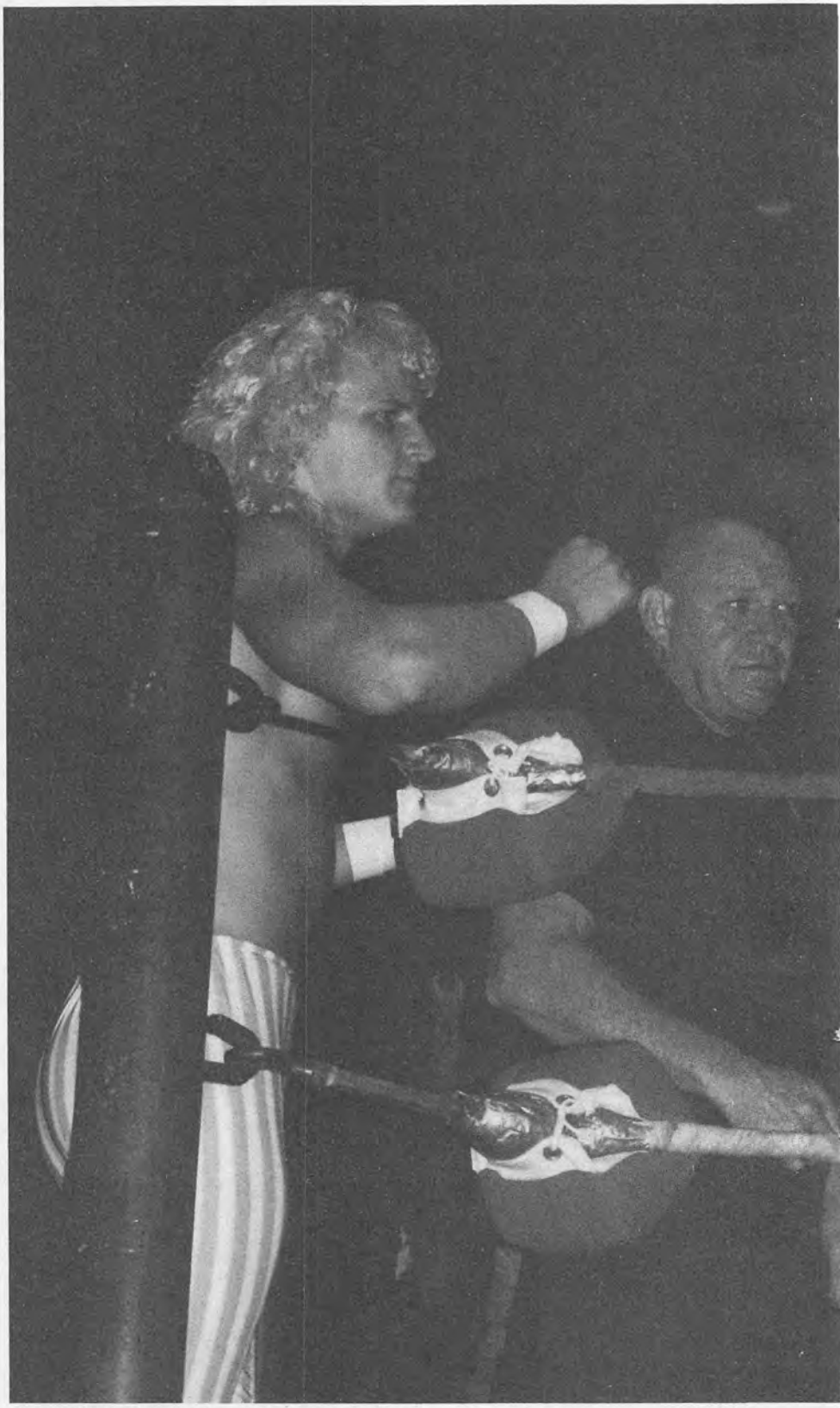
*Zbyszko slugs it out with Tim Horner.*

# JEFF JARRETT
## PRIDE OF THE SOUTH

by Don Laible Photos by Pam Preston

The three subjects that are sure to raise temperatures and result in controversy among Southerners are politics, religion and professional wrestling. Make no mistake about it, Southerners love their wrestling. In cities such as Memphis, Nashville, Louisville and Dallas, supporting their favorite grappling stars and traveling great distances to see up close non-televised matches is a way of life for thousands of fans. The Continental Wrestling Association and World Class Championship Wrestling are the dominant organizations which presents mat action in the South. Among a virtual who's who of talent in the CWA and WCCW, a new superstar has emerged. Jerry Lawler is billed as "The King" throughout the two circuits. His heir apparent to the throne is Jeff Jarrett, "The Prince." With an impressive past and promising future, he displays all the skills that one day will allow him to wear the ruler's crown as wrestling's best performer between the ropes.

Jeff Jarrett is already recognized as one of wrestling's top international attractions. Lucrative offers from leading Japanese promotional groups have been coming in regularly. Challenges from top Canadian grapplers have also found their way to Jarrett's doorstep. Before he packs his suitcases for overseas and northern ring duties, there is much he would like to conquer in his own backyard. Since Jeff defeated Eric Embry for the world lightweight championship in Texas' famed Cotton Bowl, veterans and rookies alike have been hot on his tail. "The kid's got talent. We don't see eye to eye about most things, especially in the ring but you have to respect his dedication to wrestling. He has to try harder than most. At 5'10" 200 lbs., Jeff is looked at as a target. He can handle himself quite well, believe me, I know," "Gorgeous" Jimmy Golden said.



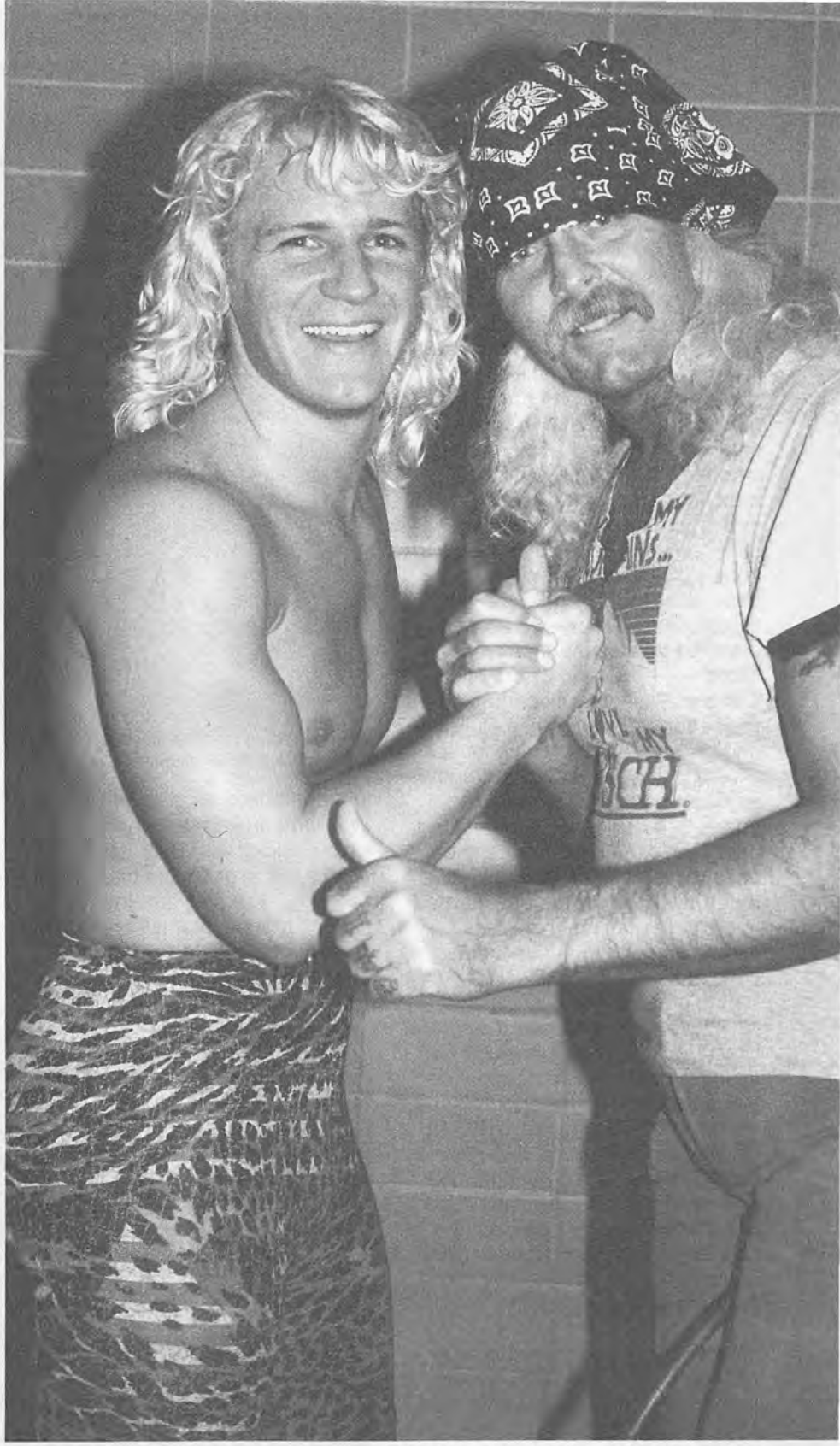
*A youthful Jeff Jarrett loves to see ring action.*

Now only in his third full year as a touring pro, the trophy case is already full. Jeff Jarrett was chosen by the American Wrestling Association as its 1987 Rookie of the Year. The Alabama State title, the Southern singles and tag team championships have also come his way as well as the Mid-America belt. Currently campaigning as the lightweight titlist, cagey veterans like Bill Dundee, Terry Adonis, Shaun Simpson and Keith Eric have been his most difficult foes to overpower.

Always in top physical condition, Jarrett frequently wrestles against opponents that outweigh him by as much as 100 lbs. Especially in situations that are, on paper anyway, so mismatched, the handsome blonde from Hendersonville, Tennessee appreciates the fans' support. Phil Hickerson at 300 pounds and Kerry Von Erich at 260 pounds are just two of a handful whom Jeff has successfully dealt with in arenas.

In early 1988, Jeff was granted a title match with then AWA champ, Curt Hennig. Some wrestlers go a decade or longer, and in most cases, never earn or are afforded the luxury of a chance at the "gold ring," the world title. Jeff didn't disappoint himself or his supporters in the once in a lifetime opportunity. The two men gave their best efforts for thirty minutes in the Rupp Arena in Louisville, Kentucky. With so much at stake, both Jarrett and Hennig went after one another as if it was their last match. In the end, a time limit draw is how the contest went down in the record books.

In an era when entertainers and athletes are idolized by children, Jeff Jarrett is a positive role model for all ages. Then again, you can call him a "chip off the old block." Jeff's father, Jerry Jarrett, and grandfather Eddie Marlin for years were ranked among the top ten wrestlers throughout North America. Together, they laid a solid foundation for their family's next wrestling sensation to follow. As a youngster, Jeff hung out in arena dressing rooms and sat ringside to pick up pointers from various wrestlers and managers. Little did he realize that one day all the information he absorbed would later groom him for the top position he enjoys today.



*Jeff and good buddy Jimmy Valiant are close.*

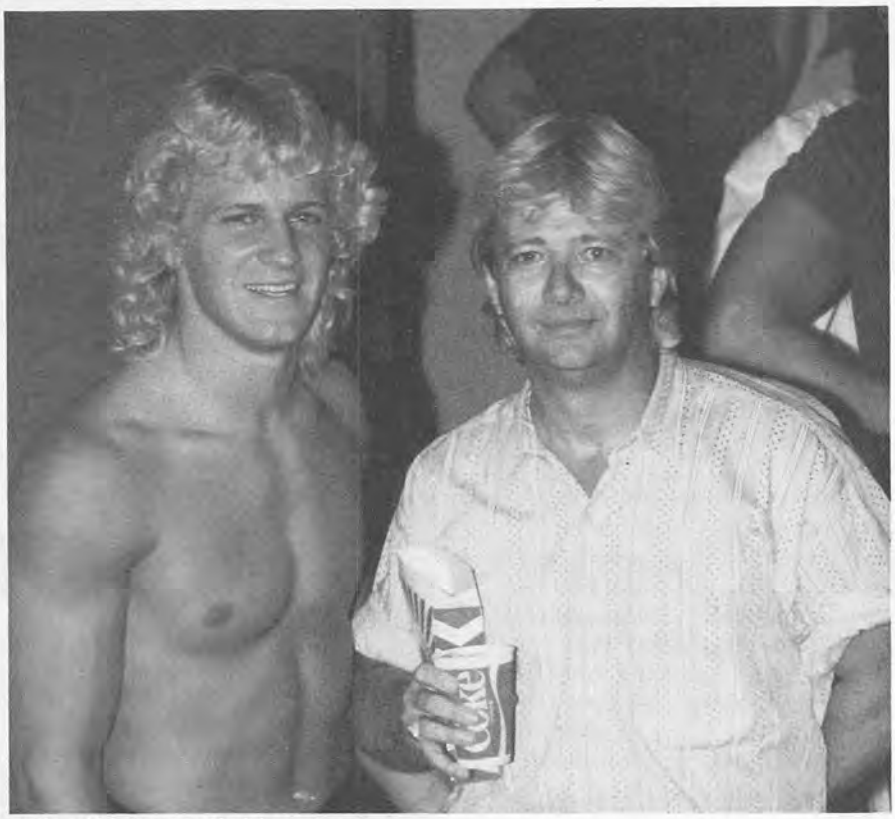
Before SuperClash 3 Jeff paid homage to his mentors.

"There are so many people I owe so much to. Tojo Yamamoto and Gentleman Saul Weingeroff were great managers and always took the time to answer my questions. Jackie Fargo is another man who has my respect. He threw me around the ring on many occasions hours before he was scheduled to wrestle, to teach me holds. The biggest influence on my career, naturally, has been my dad. From his experiences, I've been fortunate to have so many special people to help me along."

Fans in the South always associated the name Jerry Lawler with the first word spoken of wrestling. Not anymore. A prime reason why Jeff Jarrett is the topic of most wrestling conversations is the way he has stood his ground against some of the most overwhelming odds. Singlehandedly, he has beaten and bloodied Robert Fuller's "Studd Stable." Cactus Jack Foley, Mike Miller, Phil Hickerson and Fuller himself have found out first hand just how rough Jeff can be. On live television, Jarrett stripped Fuller of his "loaded" right boot and put it on his own foot and proceded to inflict pain and suffering on the Stable as they had done to many of the CWA wrestlers. When not at odds with the Stable, Tennessee-Texas Tornado matches take up much of his time. Kevin and Kerry Von Erich, Steve Cox and Frank Dusek combined their efforts against those of Jeff and his ring friends "Brickhouse" Brown, Cat Garrett, Scott Steiner and Jimmy Valiant. Slowly but surely, Jeff has built a reputation of being honest but never one to be taken advantage of. Wrestling is a tough craft and Jarrett has learned to do more than survive. He is climbing up the rankings ladder constantly.

One of the major factors as to why his face is recognized by more wrestling households is he can be seen regularly on two national cable networks. The Entertainment and Sports Programming (ESPN) Network and Financial News Network (FNN) air the CWA and AWA weekly. More and more fans have been impressed by how well he has handled himself while in front of the cameras. Jeff has fought off fire balls thrown at him by "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert, survived sneak attacks by former tag partner Pat Tanaka and walked away from a belt whipping administered by manager Downtown Bruno. "He's got the qualities of what heroes are made of. He never has a bad word to say about anyone, always smiles and keeps winning. I'd like to know what his secret is, so would dozens of other wrestlers," Todd Morton, a rookie in the CWA said.

Experts said his forte would be tag team action, that he was too light for individual competition. Well, Jeff proved them right and wrong. Along with Billy Travis, the AWA Southern tag title became his property. However, determined to make it to the top of his craft on his own merits, Jeff Jarrett worked long and hard to have the experts hear him say "I told you so." The capturing of Eric Embry's world lightweight belt has been the icing on the cake. Although his goal list is jammed packed already for a lifetime of ring action, the AWA World Championship sits ahead of all others. Nice guys don't always finish last. Jeff Jarrett enjoys being in first place.



*Jeff and his famous dad Jerry Jarrett.*

*A profusely bleeding Jarrett struggles in an abdominal stretch.*

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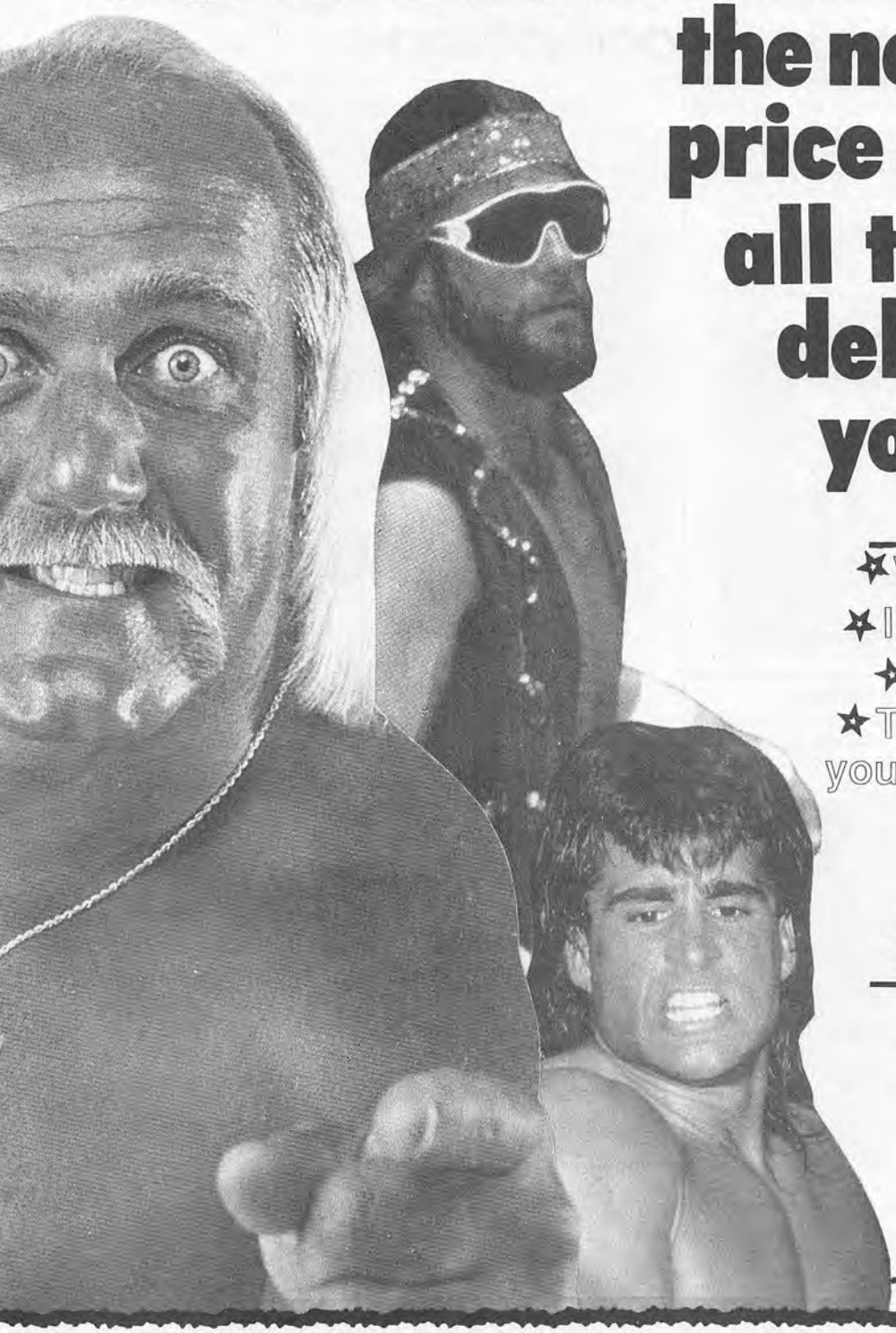

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# THE BRAIN BUSTERS

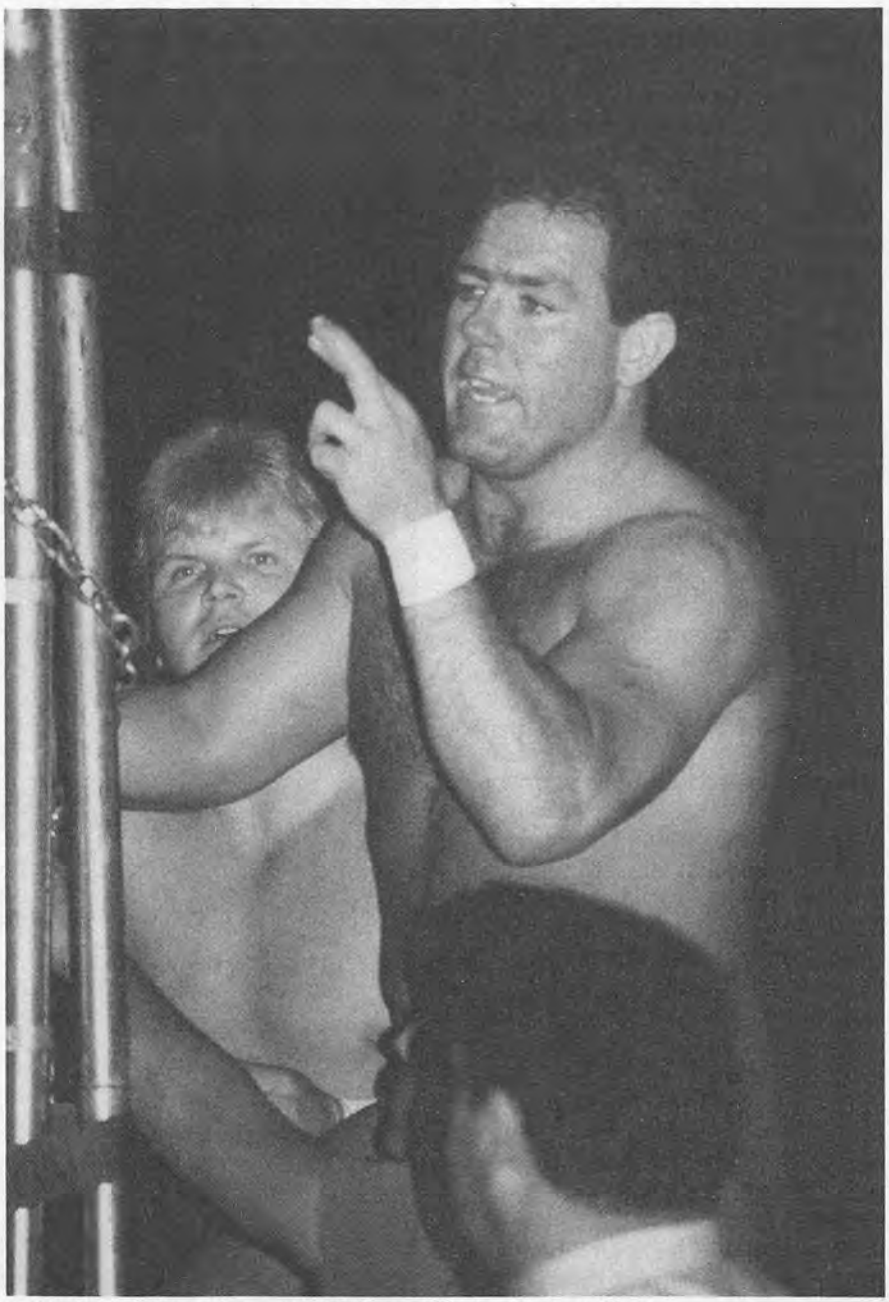
## GETTING LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

by Tom Clutters

The never-ending war between the World Wrestling Federation and the National Wrestling Alliance goes on. For several years now, both organizations have played musical wrestlers, with talent changing places regularly. The WWF hires a couple of NWA stars, the NWA retaliates by signing two from the Federation. It goes on and on, much to the chagrin of many fans. It is a conflict which has been well-documented in these pages, and while it is interesting at times, the overall feeling is "When will it stop?"

Who knows who the winner (if any) will be? WWF President Vince McMahon has shown no remorse whatsoever about spending money for big-name talent, and the NWA has had to follow suit to keep up. Remember late last year, when The Sheepherders jumped to the WWF, while Bam Bam Bigelow and the Junkyard Dog signed up with the NWA? It was a trade that would have made any baseball general manager proud.

In terms of wins and losses, however, McMahon has the upper hand, and no doubt scored the biggest victory of the war when he managed to lure two of the NWA's "crown jewels" away, namely former world tag team champions Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard. Long a part of the infamous Four Horsemen, Arn and Tully made their move in mid-September, shortly after dropping their titles to Jim Cornette's Midnight Express. Now known as the "Brain Busters" in the WWF, the ex-Horsemen are making their mark, as expected.



*Tully Blanchard can give many pointers on the sport of wrestling.*

Indeed, Anderson and Blanchard are two of the very best. Their resumes rival those of anyone else in the business. Anderson is a former co-holder of the National tag team belts and a former NWA World TV champion; Tully has held both the National title and the TV championship, and was also the United States champion for many months. After joining forces, they twice won the world tag belts, defeating the Rock & Roll Express on September 29, 1987, and then downing Barry Windham and Lex Luger on April 20, 1988, in the controversial match in which Windham became a member of the Horsemen. In the ring, Anderson and Blanchard work as a well-oiled machine. They

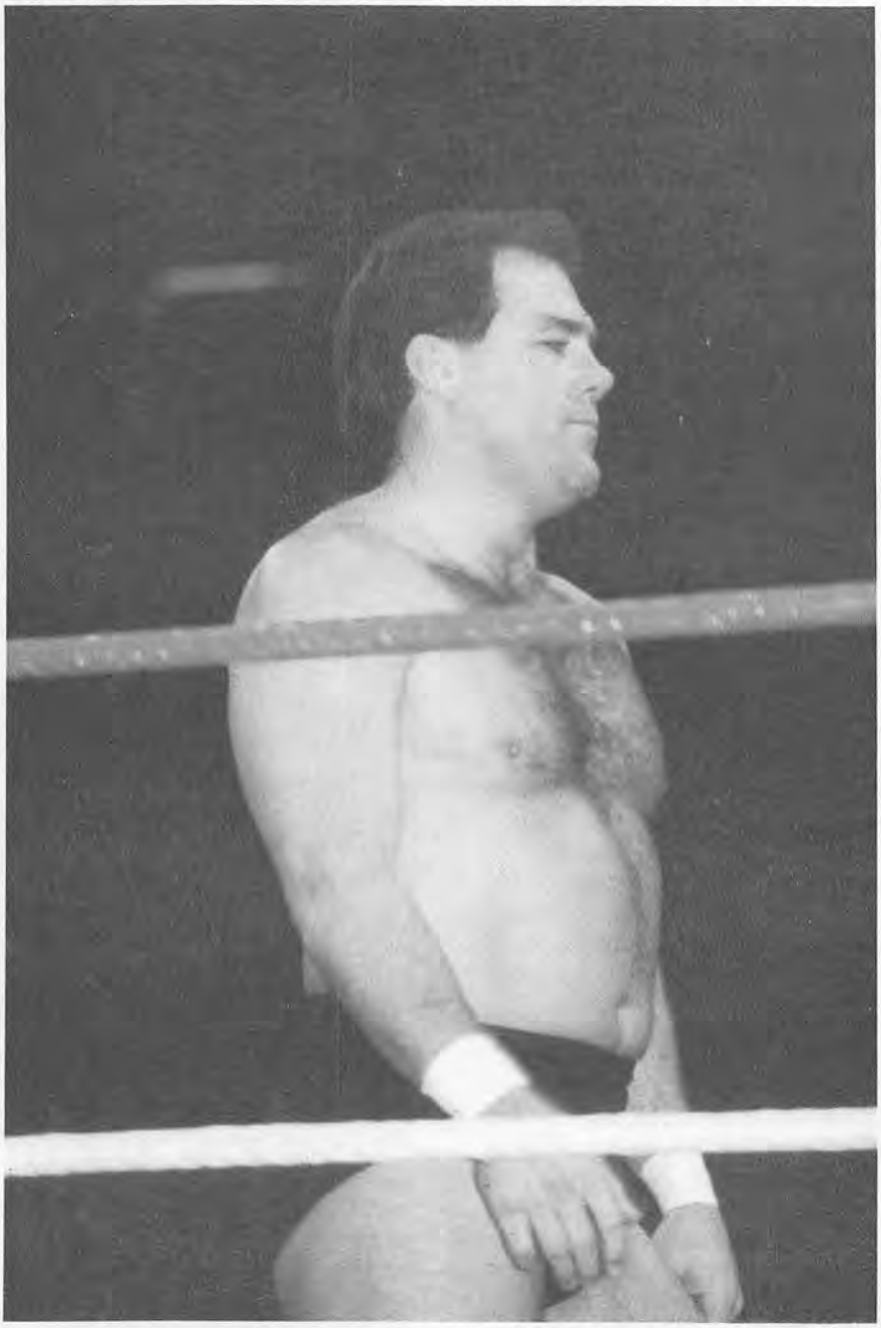
are skilled and they are tough, a hard combination to beat.

The defection of the Brain Busters to the WWF caught more than a few people by complete surprise. After all, Arn and Tully were at the top of their game in the NWA, having been recognized as the world's best tag team in may circles. Feuds with Luger and Windham and the Midnight Express had done much to cement their reputations, since both men were allowed to show their wares in front of millions. It would seem to have been the ideal situation, so why did they leave? Take all of the talk about pride, new challenges, etc., and throw it out the window. It was MONEY, pure and simple. While they were two of the highest-paid grapplers in the NWA, Tully and Arn couldn't pass up the lure of an even sweeter deal from McMahon. It has happened so many times before. Outstanding wrestlers will sacrifice their stardom and reputations for the opportunity to become mega-buck stooges in the WWF. Several, in fact, have taken McMahon's big money, only to see their careers fade.

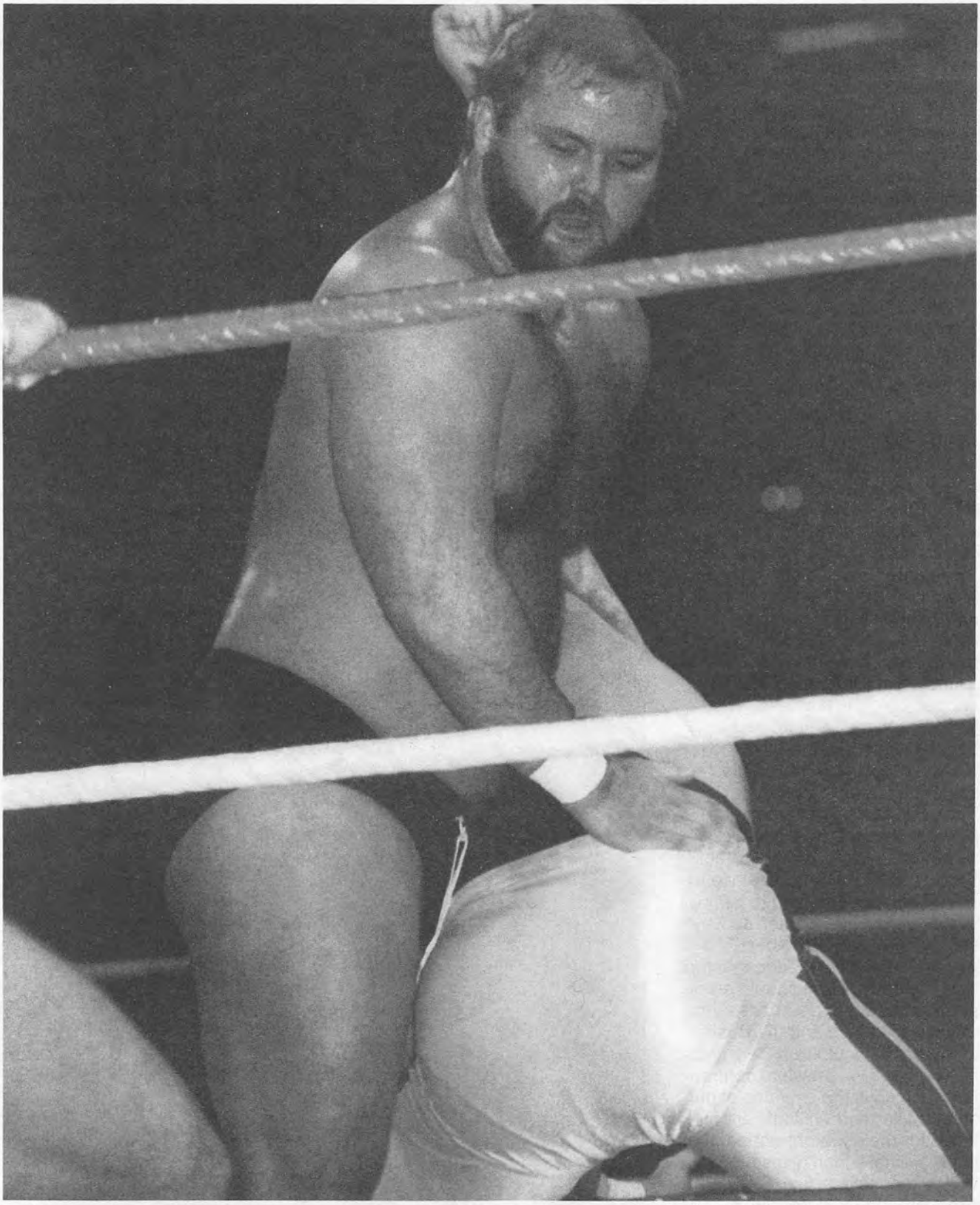
Will this happen to the Brain Busters? It's hard to say right now, but their first move upon joining the WWF ranks is questionable. Hiring Bobby Heenan as their manager, Anderson and Blanchard left many in the business chuckling to themselves. Heenan is a proven non-winner in the WWF. Many of the sport's top names have put their fortunes in his hands, only to lose everything. Just ask Paul Orndorff. Or King Kong Bundy. Or Big John Studd. Or Islander Toma. Bobby's promises of titles and worldwide fame have fallen short in most cases. If managerial success is measured in terms of championships, then Bobby Heenan has failed the test. To prove the point, can you name the last champion (excluding Andre the Giant's 30-second "reign" as world champion last year) that "The Brain" has produced? The current Heenan family, which also includes Rick Rude, Terry Taylor, King Haku, and Andre, while talented, has little or no hope of becoming championship material.

Arn and Tully's former manager, James J. Dillon, while not as outspoken or brash as Heenan, has produced titles for his men for many years. The man credited with creating the Four Horsemen could well be tops in his profession, and under his leadership, Anderson and Blanchard had become flagship athletes in the NWA. Now, in the already-crowded WWF, they face the distinct possibility of getting lost in the shuffle. Like everyone else, the Brain Busters would like a shot at the tag team belts, but current champions Demolition are a long way away. The Powers of Pain, The Rougeaus, The Hart Foundation and even the Bolsheviks are already in line, and the wheels always grind slowly in the Federation.

One of the first teams to take the challenge from Anderson and Blanchard were the Rockers, Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty, the former AWA world champions. According to inside sources, Shawn and Marty had been waiting for some time to get at Tully and Arn. "The Rockers have always felt like they matched up well against Blanchard and Anderson," said one informant. "When Tully and Arn were NWA champs, Shawn and Marty sometimes wished they had went to there instead of here since they felt they could beat them." While the Rockers were fully aware of the Brain Busters, the reverse could not be



*Tully Blanchard is one tough dude.*



*Arn applies an abdominal stretch on Bret Hart.*

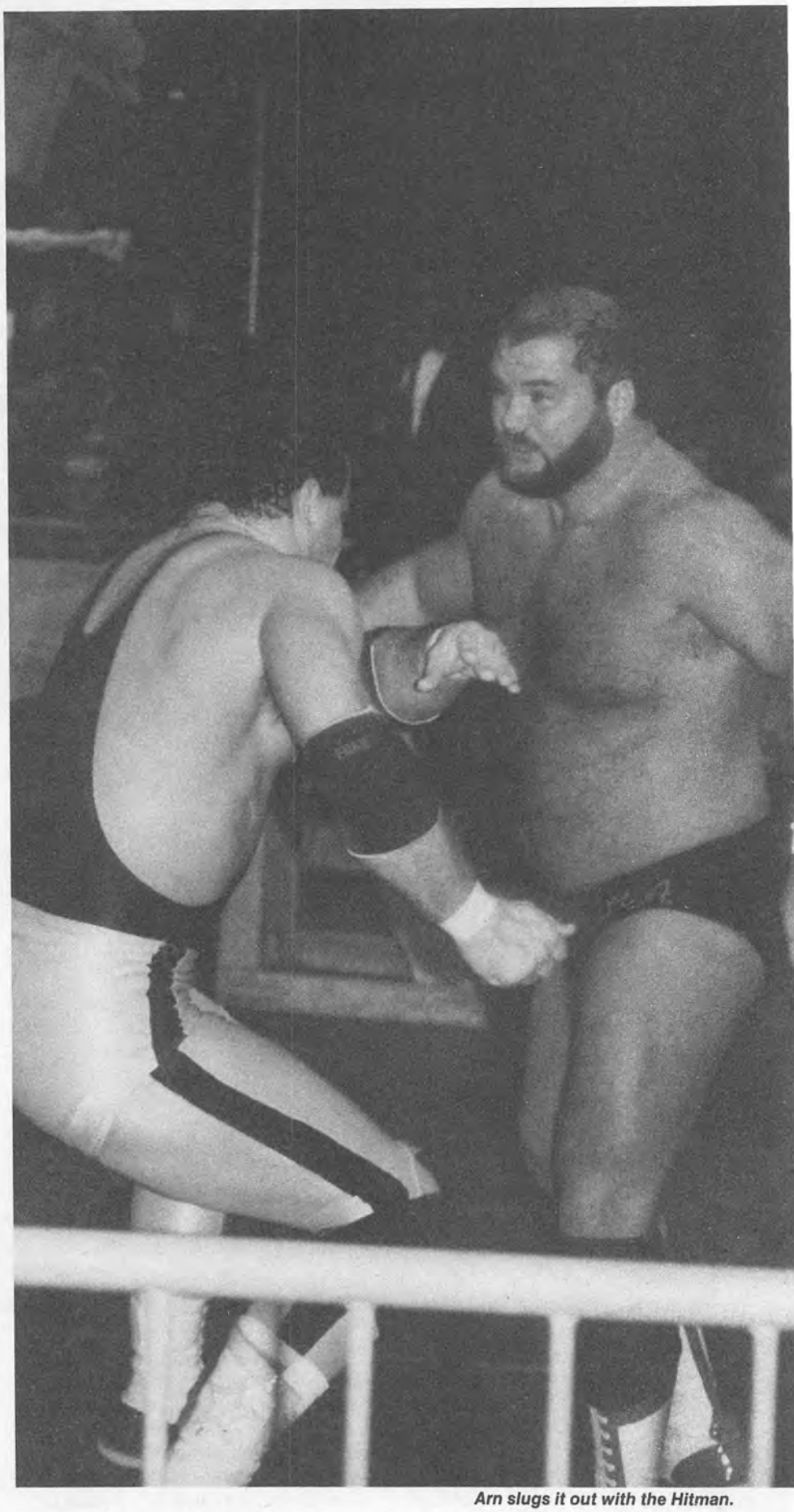
said for Anderson and Blanchard. Since Michaels and Jannetty had spent most of their careers in the AWA, Arn and Tully had little knowledge of their opposition, and it was the two veterans who were forced to "go to school." Early matchups against their young adversaries were learning experiences for the Busters. In one nationally-televised bout, Tully and Arn showed their frustration by attacking Michaels and Jannetty before the bell, and after a brief brawl outside the ring, the match never came off. About a week later, Arn and Tully managed to win a decision, but only after Heenan had tripped Michaels while the latter was near the ring ropes. Overall, it was the Rockers with the edge early in the feud, both those close to the Brain Busters knew it was only a matter of time before things evened out.

Following the defection of the infamous Mr. Fuji from Demolition to the Powers of Pain, it was almost

certain that the Warlord and the Barbarian would soon become WWF champions, and this could only spell more trouble for the BB. Matchups between rulebreakers are few and far between in the WWF, and to become involved in anything less than a championship series would be useless for Anderson and Blanchard. Besides money, what else could they want besides a chance to become champions of two major federations? Although the feud with the Rockers would make an excellent tune-up, nothing else but a championship shot really matters. And to count on Bobby Heenan to help has proven to be a mistake for many others.

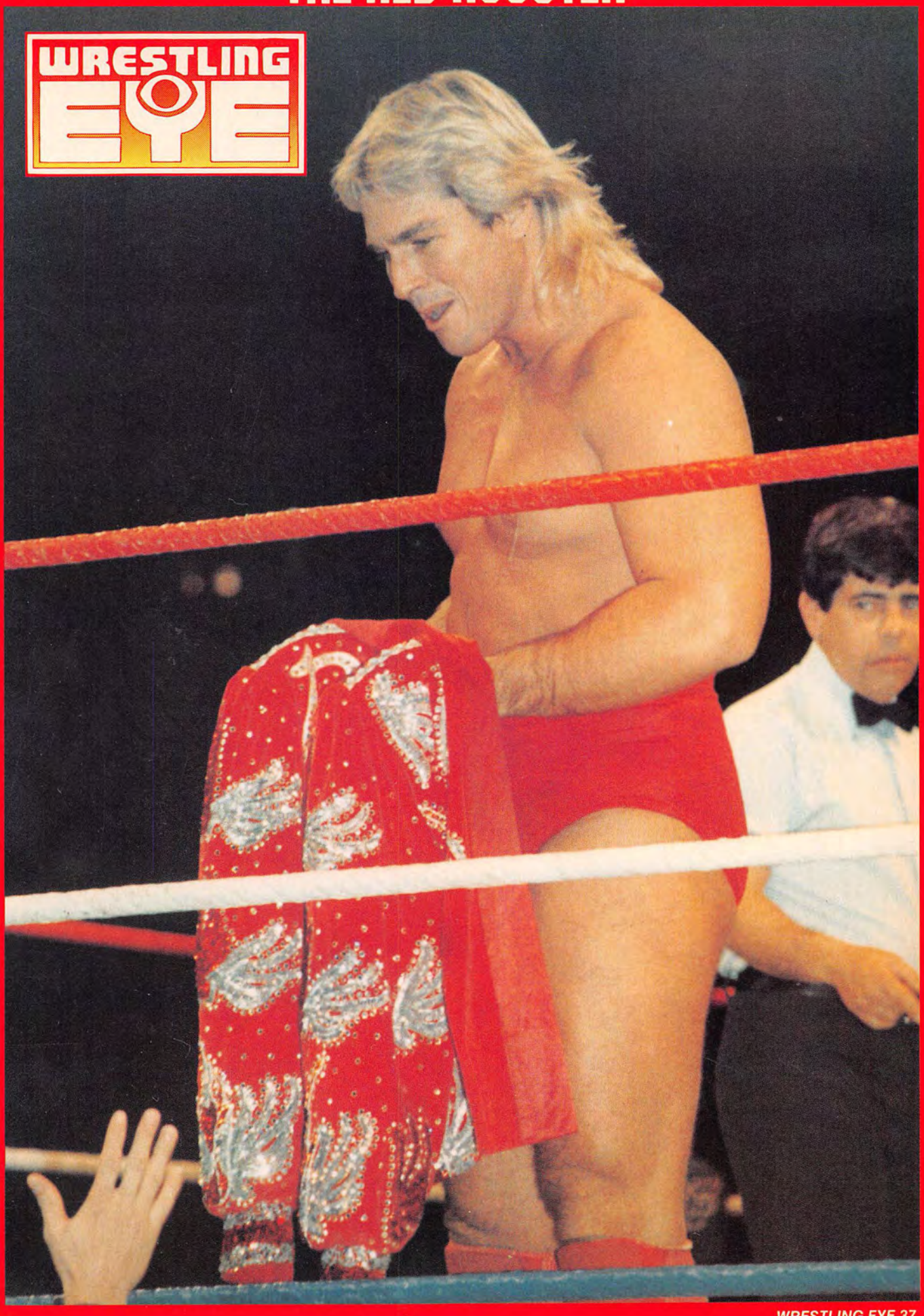
One other factor could spell the difference between success and mediocrity in the WWF for Anderson and Blanchard. This factor comes in the persons of two other "gentlemen" who recently left the NWA for greener Federation pastures. Butch Miller and Luke Williams. Two grizzled New Zealand natives who had worked for years as the hated Sheepherders, popped onto the scene as "The Bushwhackers," and immediately began calling the names of their old comrades. "Let me tell you somethin', Yank," growled Miller. "The Bushwhackers aren't here to play games. We're here to kick some bloody tails, and the Brain Busters would be a good place to start. They're supposed to be the best America has to offer, so why start with less than the best?" If you are a truly knowledgeable fan of pro wrestling, you should drool at the prospect of a war between the Brain Busters and the Bushwhackers. It would truly be a classic wrestlers vs. brawlers confrontation which is the essence of our sport. Miller and Williams are famous for their straight-ahead, high impact style, which gives highly skilled technicians like Tully and Arn a great deal of trouble. Although the roles of rulebreaker and fan favorite are somewhat reversed here, this could well be the best tag team feud of 1989, if it is allowed to happen.

In any event, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard have made a major decision. They have left the NWA, where they were secure both financially and otherwise, for more cash but a more uncertain future in the WWF. Was it a great move, or the beginning of the end? Stay tuned and find out.



***Arn slugs it out with the Hitman.***

# THE RED ROOSTER



# NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Photo By B.L. Harbison

# RICKY MORTON VS PAT TANAKA

RICK STEINER
WRESTLING
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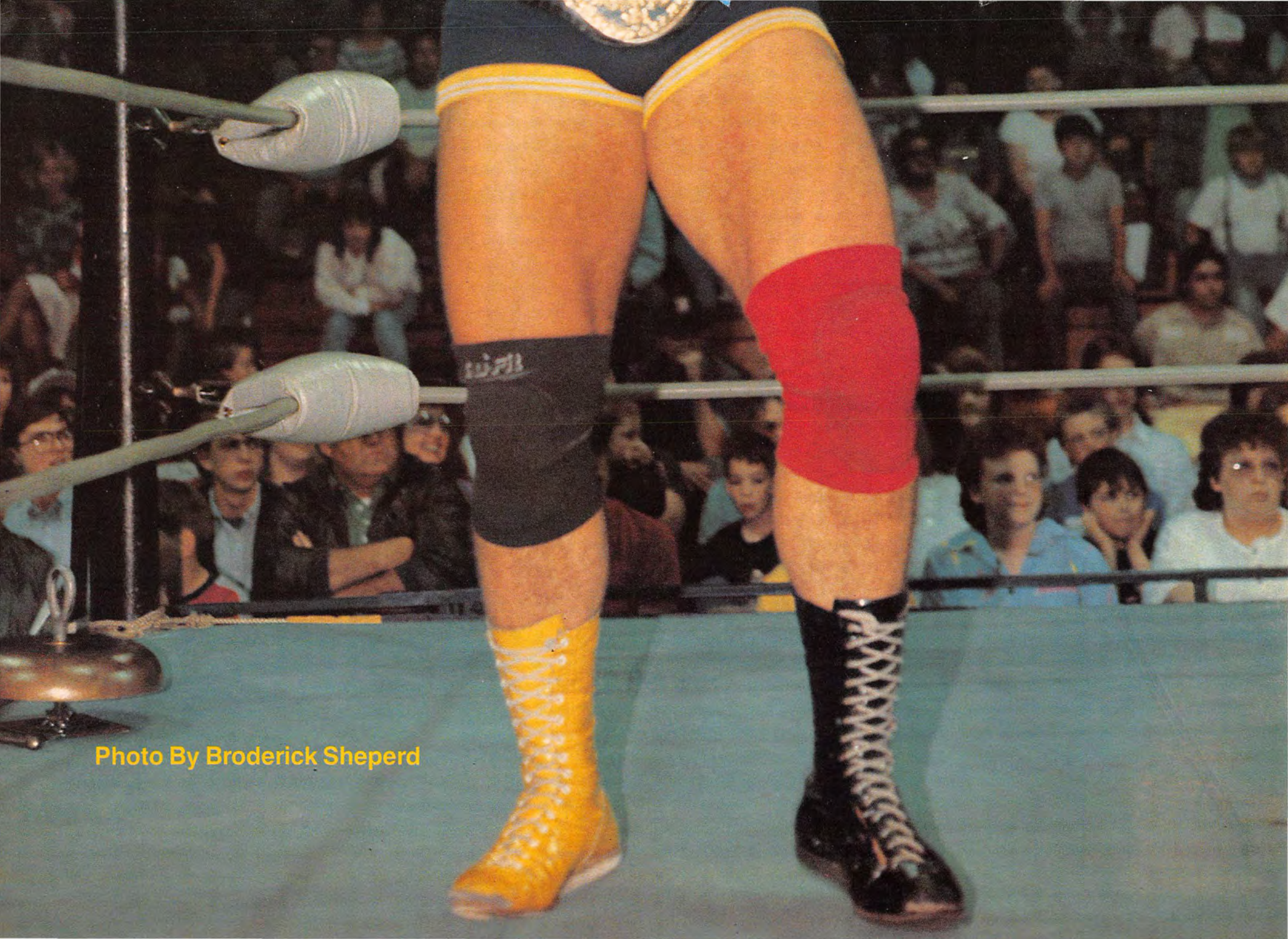

Photo By Broderick Sheperd

# FRENCHY MARTIN

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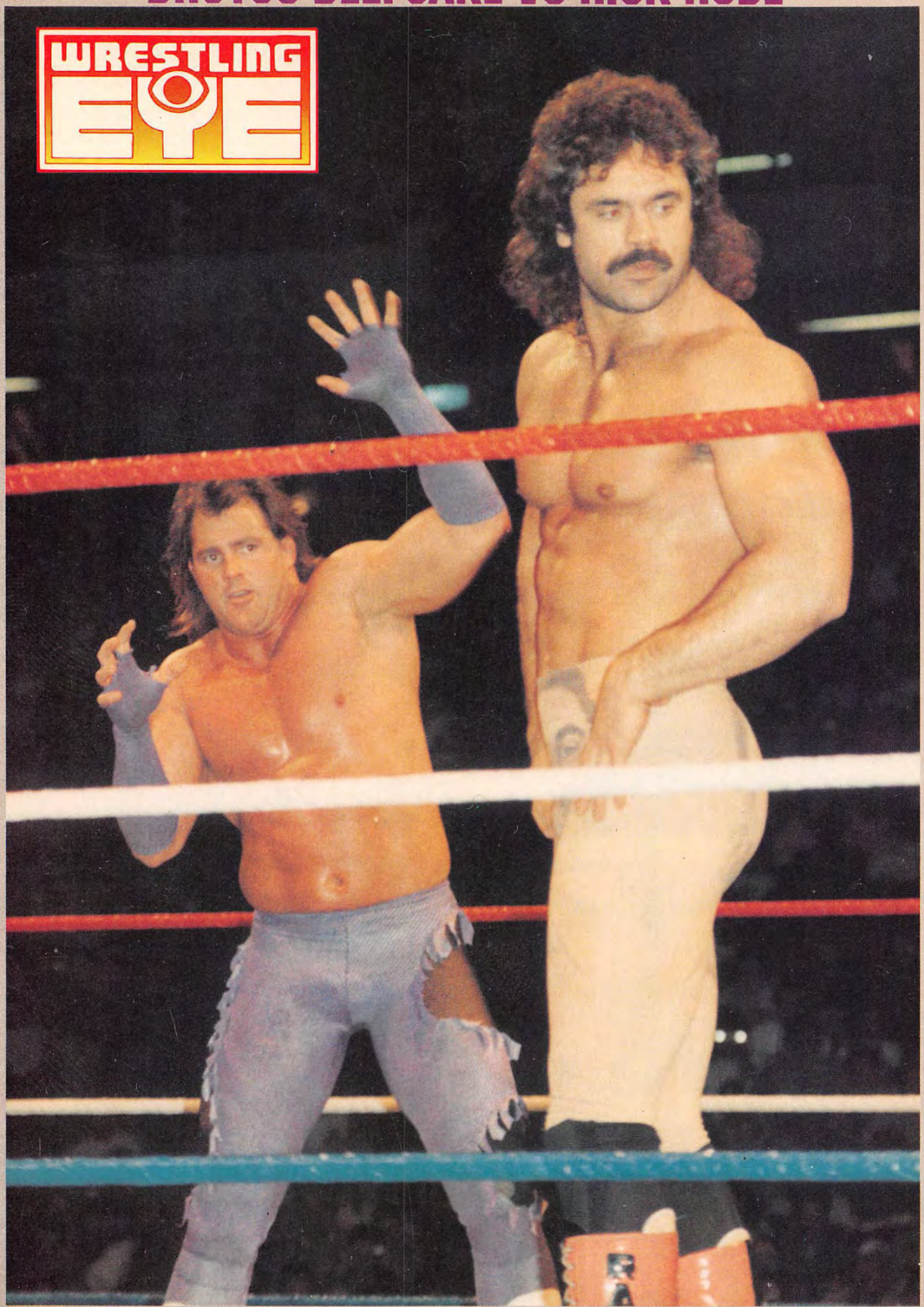
# HARLEY RACE VS HAKU

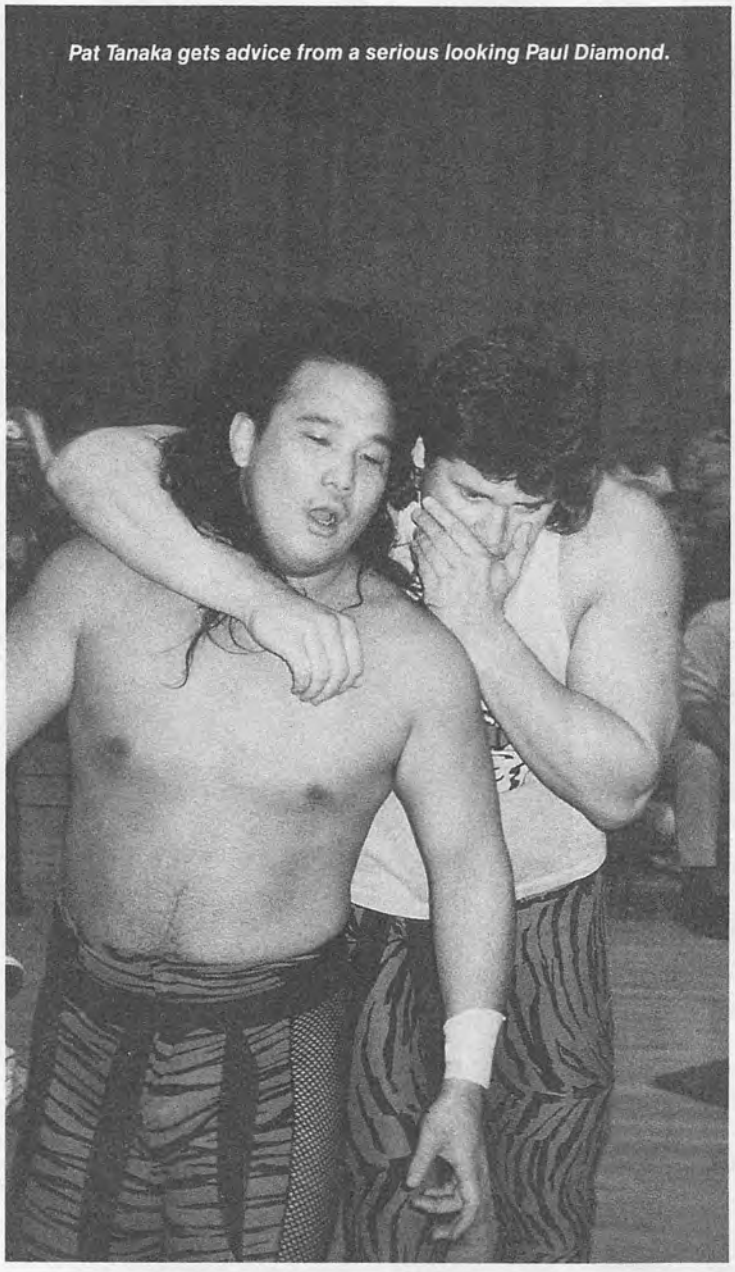
# BRUTUS BEEFCAKE VS RICK RUDE



# BATTLE OF THE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

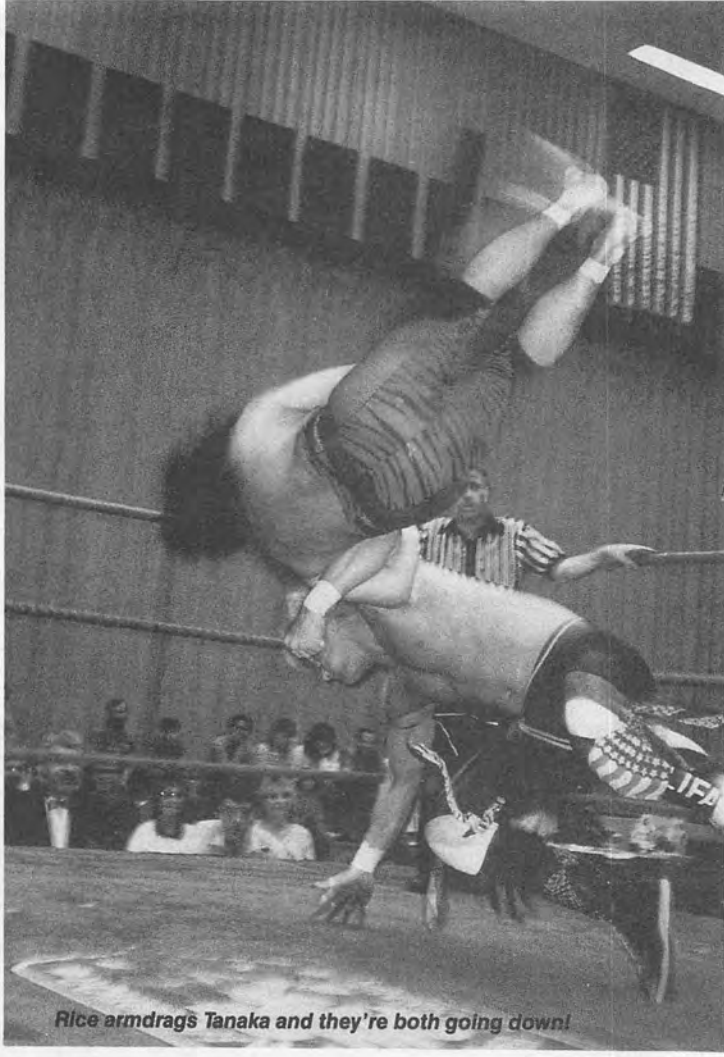
## RICKY RICE VS PAT TANAKA

by Michael Nelson

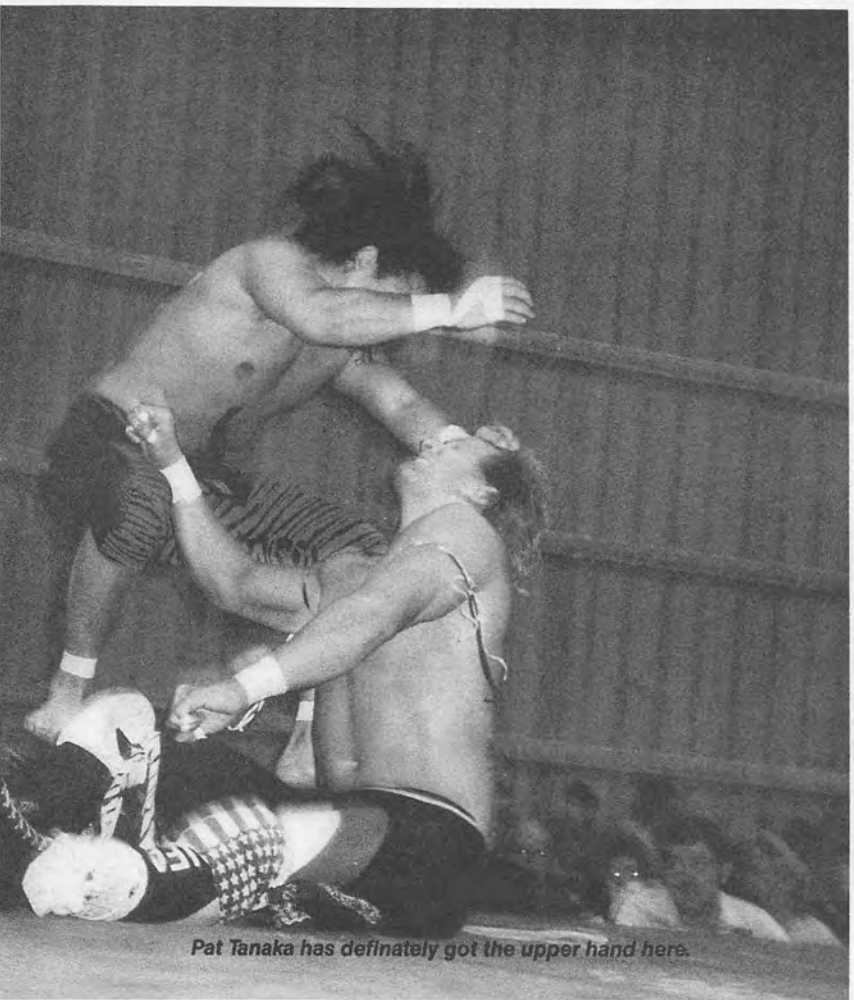


*Pat Tanaka gets advice from a serious looking Paul Diamond.*

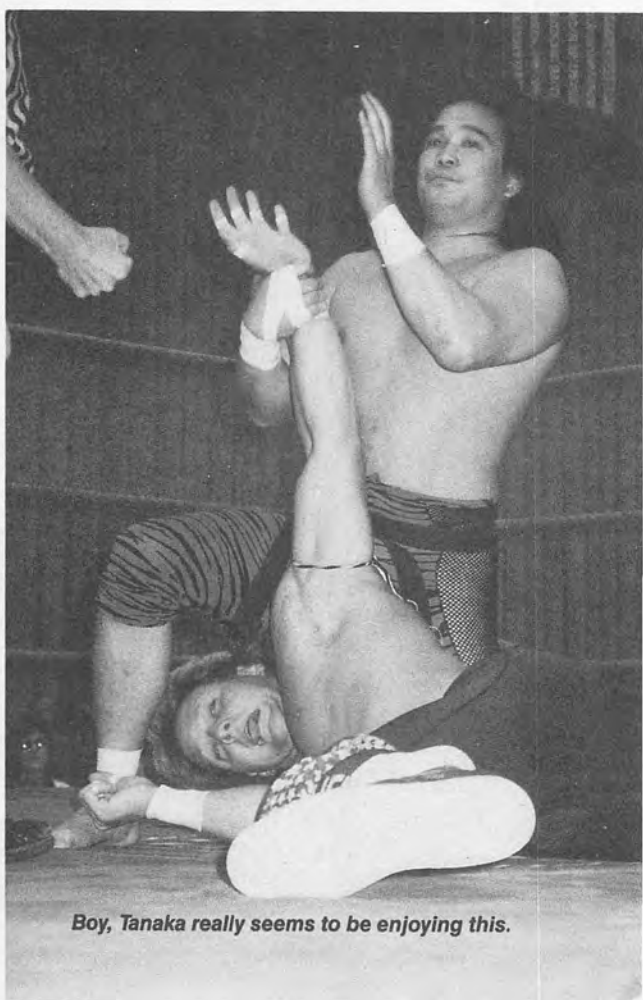
*Looks like Rice is going to be D.D.T.ed.*



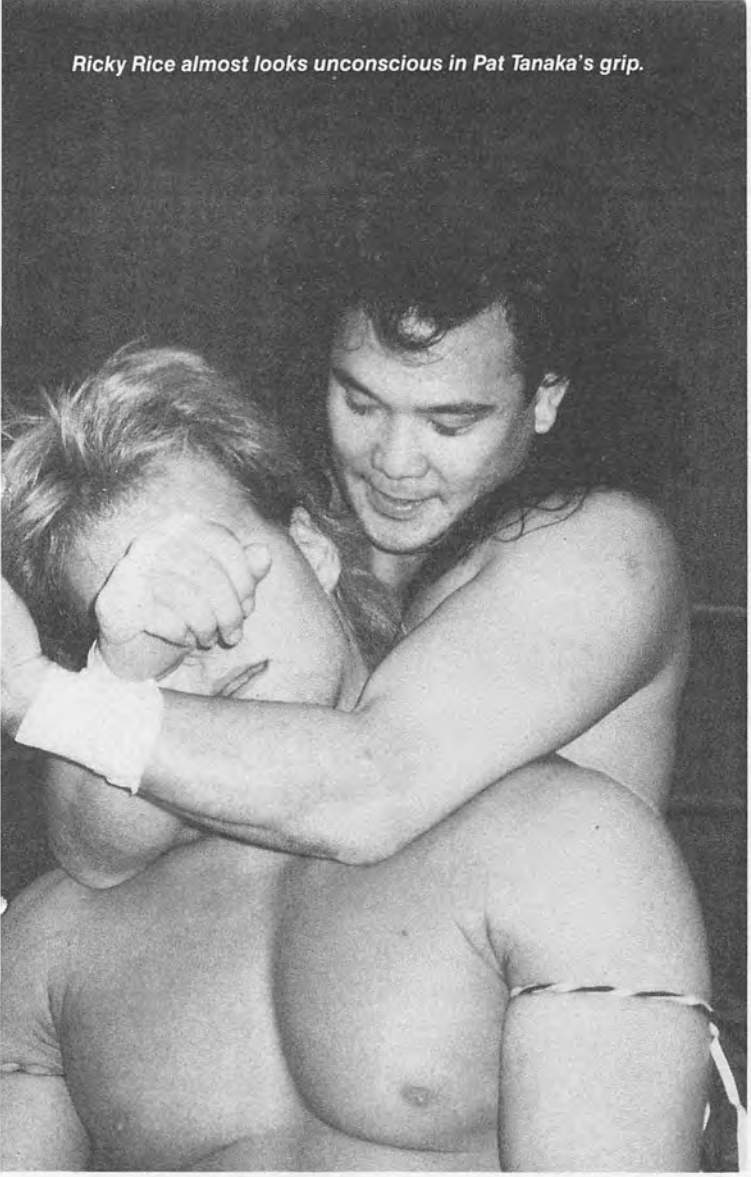
*Rice armdrags Tanaka and they're both going down!*



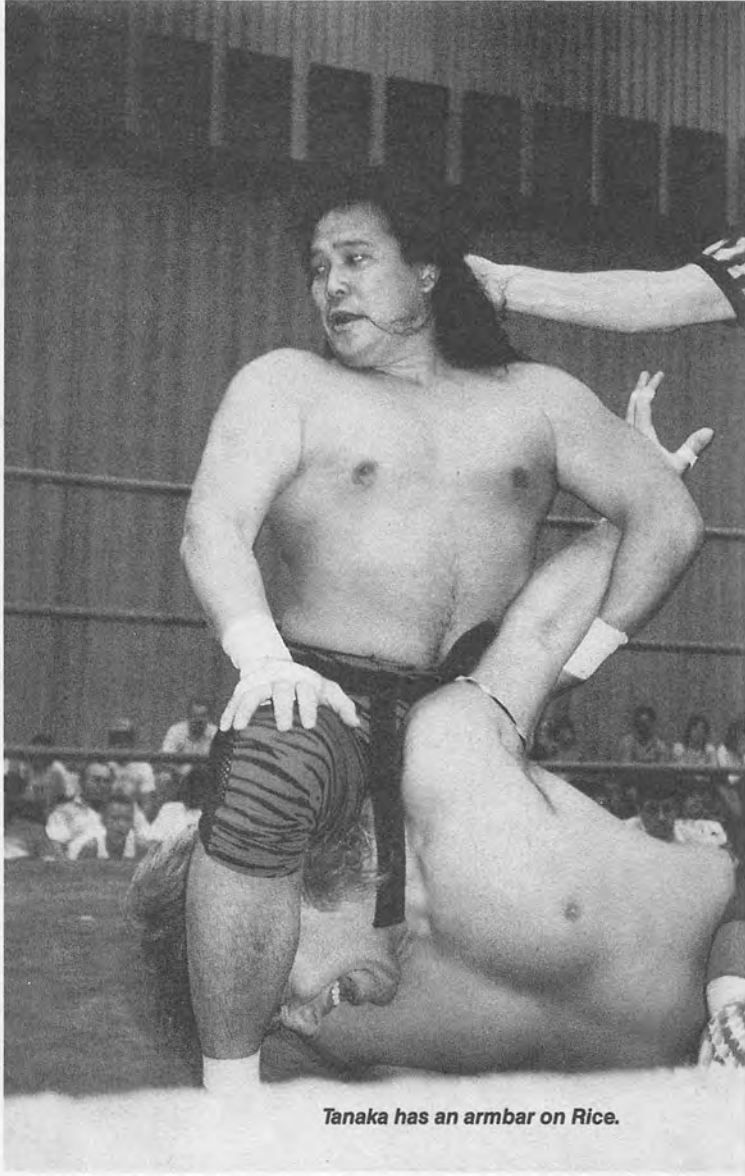
*Pat Tanaka has definately got the upper hand here.*



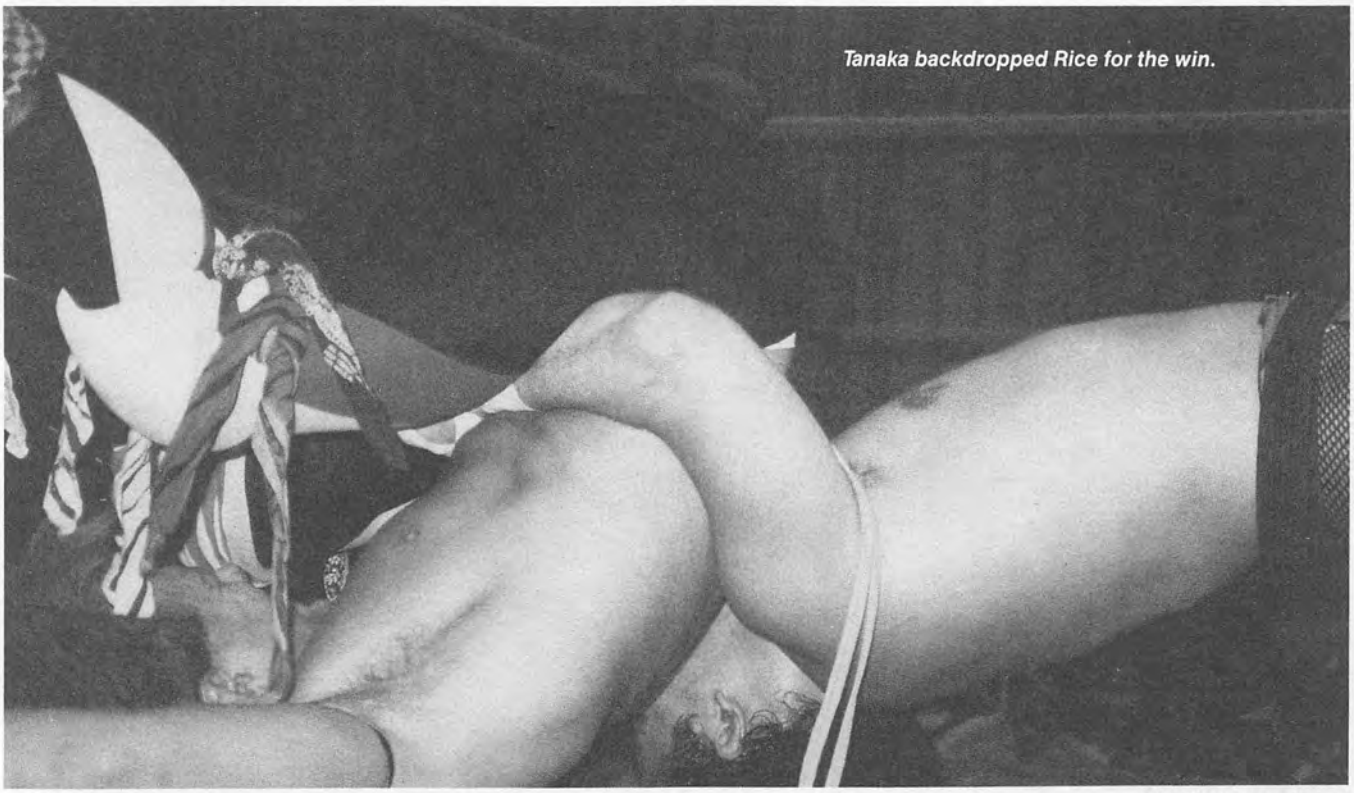
*Boy, Tanaka really seems to be enjoying this.*



*Ricky Rice almost looks unconscious in Pat Tanaka's grip.*



*Tanaka has an armbar on Rice.*



*Tanaka backdropped Rice for the win.*

# WRESTLING EYE'S

**W.W.F.**
**Champ—Randy Savage**

1. Hulk Hogan
2. Ultimate Warrior
3. Ted DiBiase
4. Curt Hennig
5. Andre the Giant
6. Big Bossman
7. Brutus Beefcake
8. Honky Tonk Man
9. Bret Hart
10. Rick Rude
11. Terry Taylor
12. Ron Bass
13. Jake Roberts
14. Dino Bravo
15. Hercules Hernandez

**N.W.A.**
**CHAMP—Ric Flair**

1. Lex Luger
2. Sting
3. Barry Windham
4. Al Perez
5. Rick Steiner
6. Dusty Rhodes
7. Kevin Sullivan
8. Mike Rotunda
9. Steve Williams
10. Nikita Koloff
11. Brad Armstrong
12. Larry Zbyszko
13. Bobby Fulton
14. Ivan Koloff
15. Tommy Rogers

**N.W.F.**

1. Jules Strongbow
2. Sgt Slaughter
3. David Shultz
4. Larry Winters
5. Stan Hansen
6. Cousin Luke
7. Silo Sam
8. Mr. Anthony
9. Eddie Mirrenda
10. Col. DeBeers

**N.C.W.**

1. Johnny Rodz
2. Abdullah the Butcher
3. Ted Arcidi
4. Toru Tanaka
5. Johnny V.
6. Cousin Luke
7. Mondo Kleen
8. The Heartthrob
9. Charlie Fulton
10. Larry Sharpe

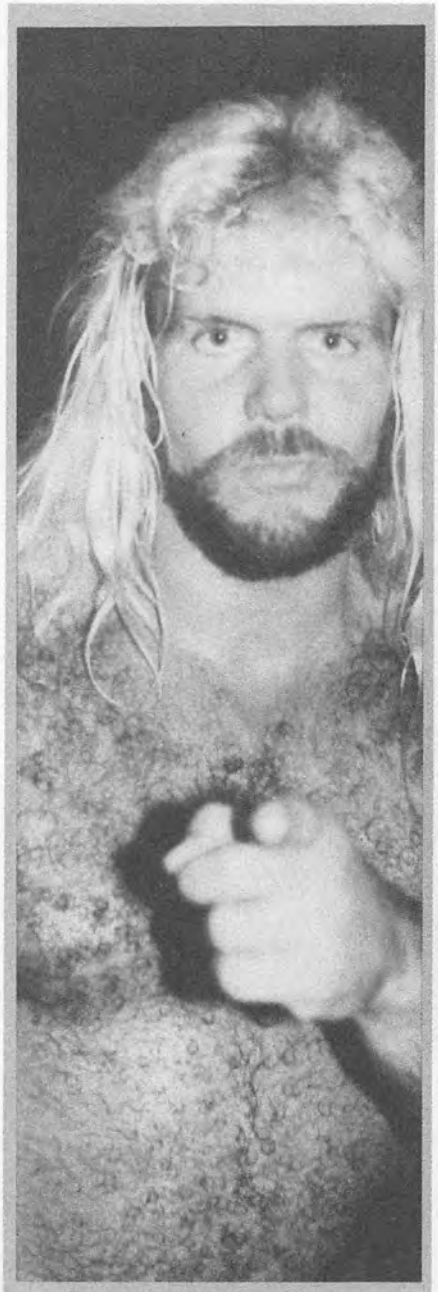
**U.S.W.A.**

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Abdullah the Butcher
3. Larry Winters
4. Rocky Johnson
5. Afu the Wild Samoan
6. King Kahula
7. The Cheetah Kid
8. Tom Brandi
9. Dick the Bruiser
10. Ron Shaw

**A.W.A.**

1. Jerry Lawler
2. Kerry Von Erich
3. Wahoo McDaniel
4. Greg Gagne
5. Mondo Guerrero
6. Ricky Morton
7. Pat Tanaka
8. Paul Diamond
9. Ricky Rice
10. John Paul

# OFFICIAL RATINGS



**WORLD CLASS**

1. Iceman Parsons
2. Kerry Von Erich
3. Chris Adams
4. Kevin Von Erich
5. Kendall Windham
6. Brickhouse Brown
7. The Beast
8. Michael Hayes
9. Steve Cox
10. Buddy Roberts

**WORLD WOMEN'S RATINGS**

1. Madusa Miceli
2. Misty Blue
3. Debbie Combs
4. Wendi Richter
5. Heidi Lee Morgan
6. Linda Dallas
7. Candi Divine
8. Kat Leroux
9. Brandi Mae
10. Olympia

**TOP TEN MANAGERS**

1. Jimmy Hart
2. Bobby Heenan
3. J.J. Dillon
4. Jim Cornette
5. Paul Ellering
6. Slick
7. Paul E. Dangerously
8. Paul Jones
9. Gary Hart
10. Downtown Bruno

**TOP 15 TAG TEAMS**

1. Demolition
2. Midnight Express
3. Badd Co.
4. Road Warriors
5. The Brainbusters
6. The Fantastics
7. The Rockers
8. The Varsity Club
9. British Bulldogs
10. Michael Hayes and Steve Cox
11. The Rock 'n Roll Express
12. Powers of Pain
13. The Top Guns
14. The Samoan Swat Team
15. The Bushwackers

**Top 15** (rated by wrestling ability)

1. Ric Flair
2. Bret Hart
3. Randy Savage
4. Barry Windham
5. Ted DiBiase
6. Keijo Muto
7. Owen Hart
8. Curt Hennig
9. Sting
10. Tully Blanchard
11. Terry Taylor
12. Mondo Guerrero
13. Bobby Eaton
14. Brad Armstrong
15. Pat Tanaka

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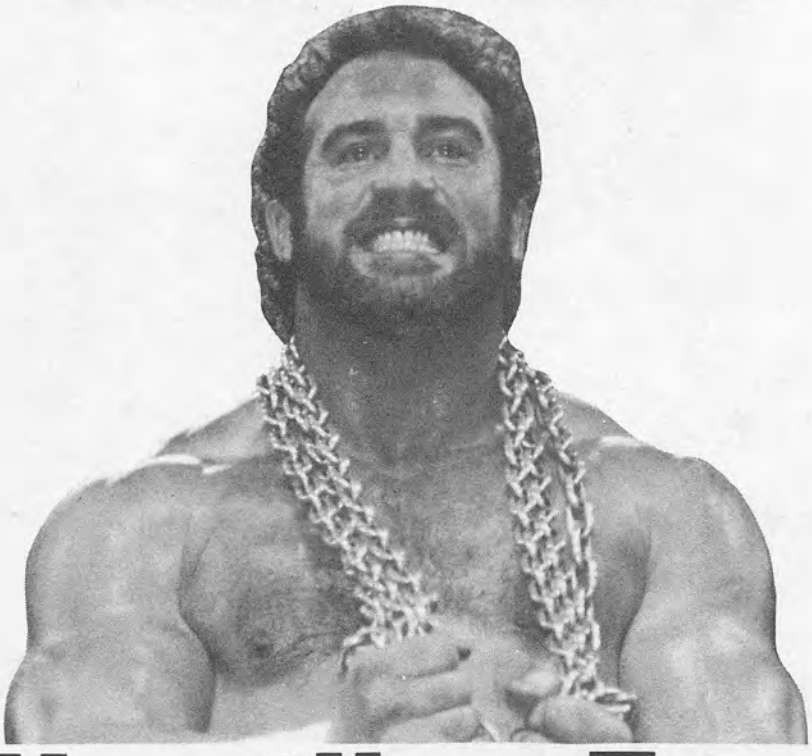

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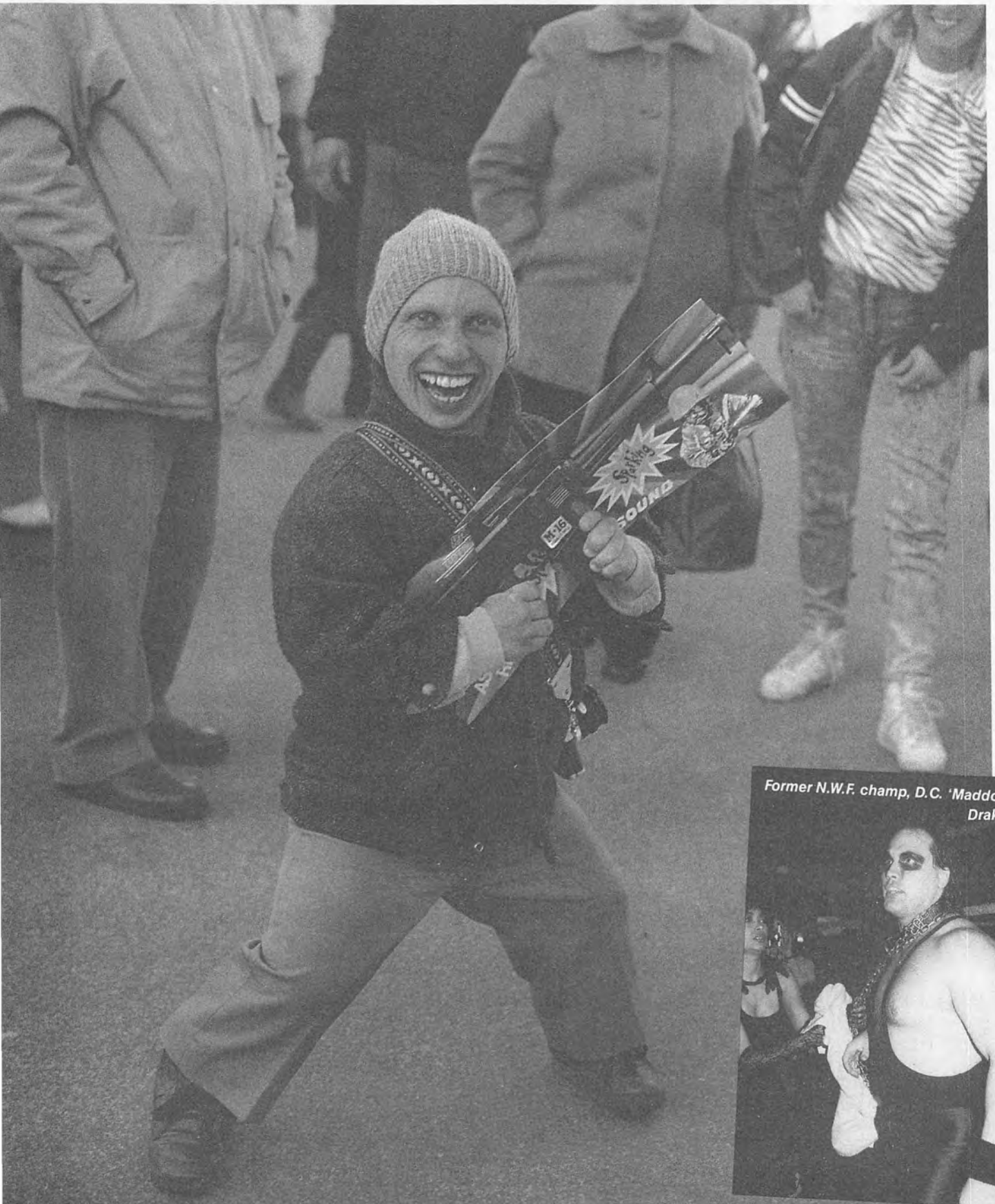
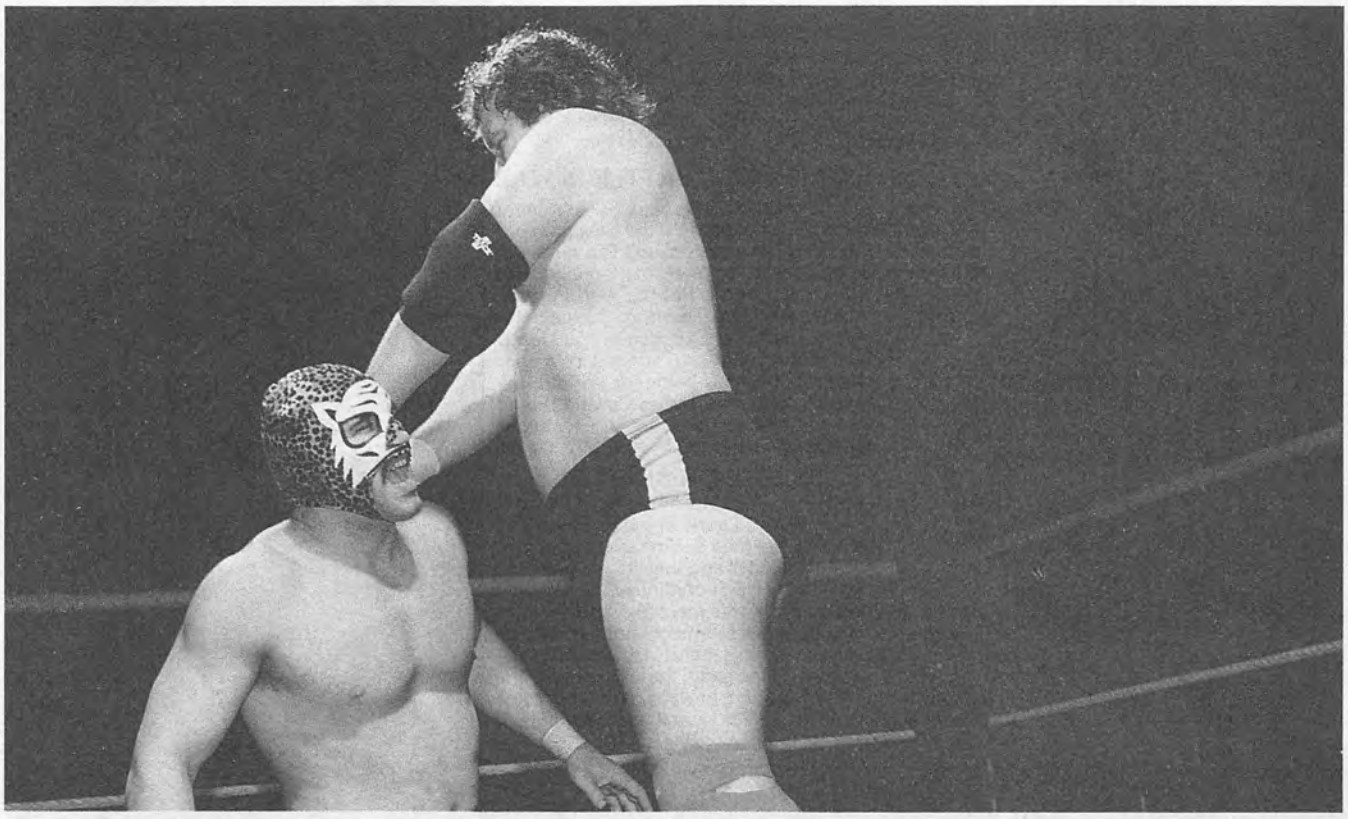
*Midget madman Tiger Jackson raises havoc on the streets of Munich.*

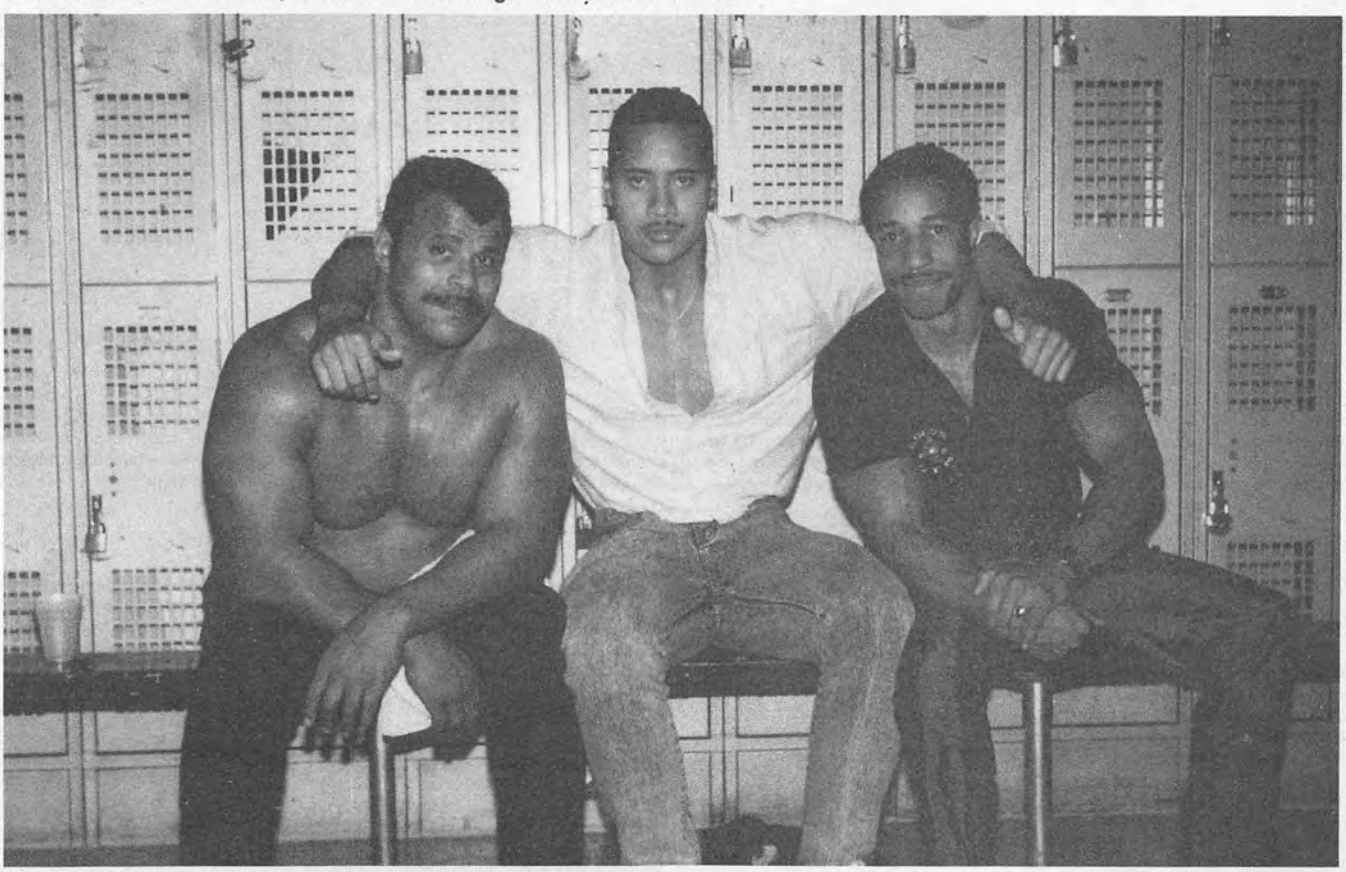


*Former N.W.F. champ, D.C. 'Maddog' Drake.*

# Stars Gallery"



*In action across the Atlantic, The Cheetah Kid tangles with Gino Garabello.*



*The Johnson clan, Rocky, son Ricky and Ricky's uncle.*

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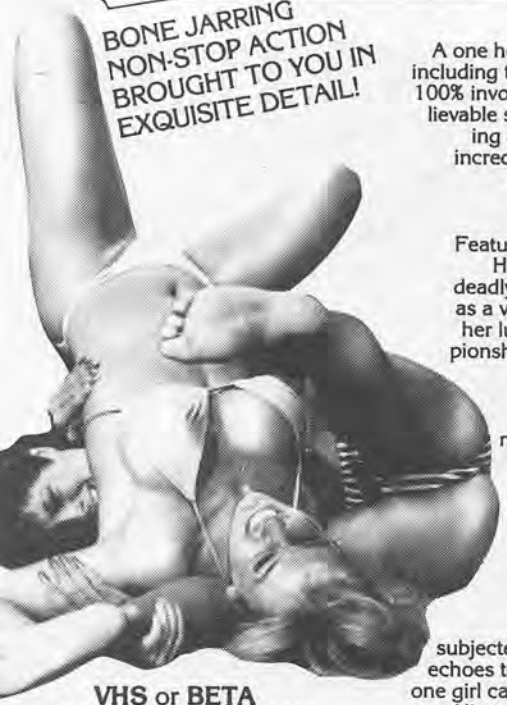

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Features Jaguar Yokota, "All The Marbles" star Mimi Hagiwara and Omori Yukori vs. the beautiful, but deadly, Devil Masami, Lei Lani Kai, and in a rare stint as a villainess, Irish Velvet McIntyre. Mimi really takes her lumps in this one. **Bout 2.** For the World Championship. Sensational Vickie Williams vs. Jackie Sato. Not only does Vickie choke, gouge and stomp Jackie, she brings her own referee! It's a near riot as these two gals battle for world dominance! **Bout 3.** Jaguar vs. Dallas Cowgirl Wendi Richter in a wonderful matchup, featuring speed and skill vs. brute strength. *#VC-11*

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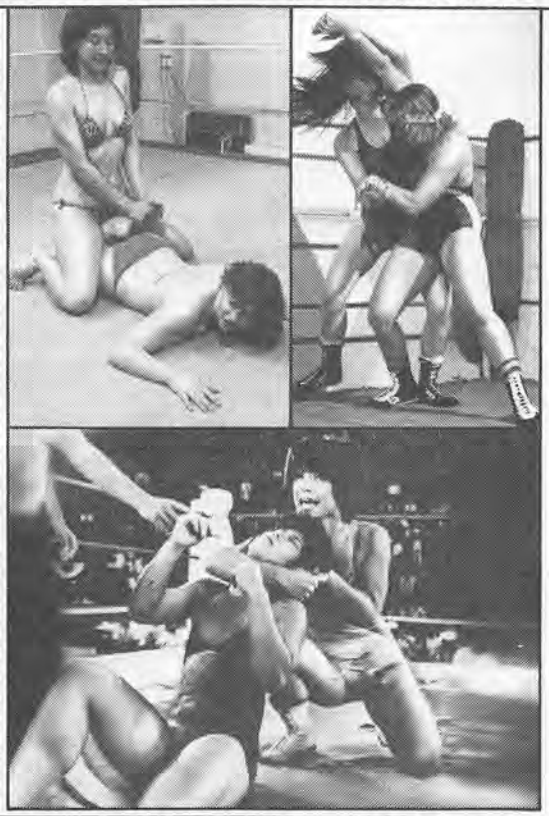

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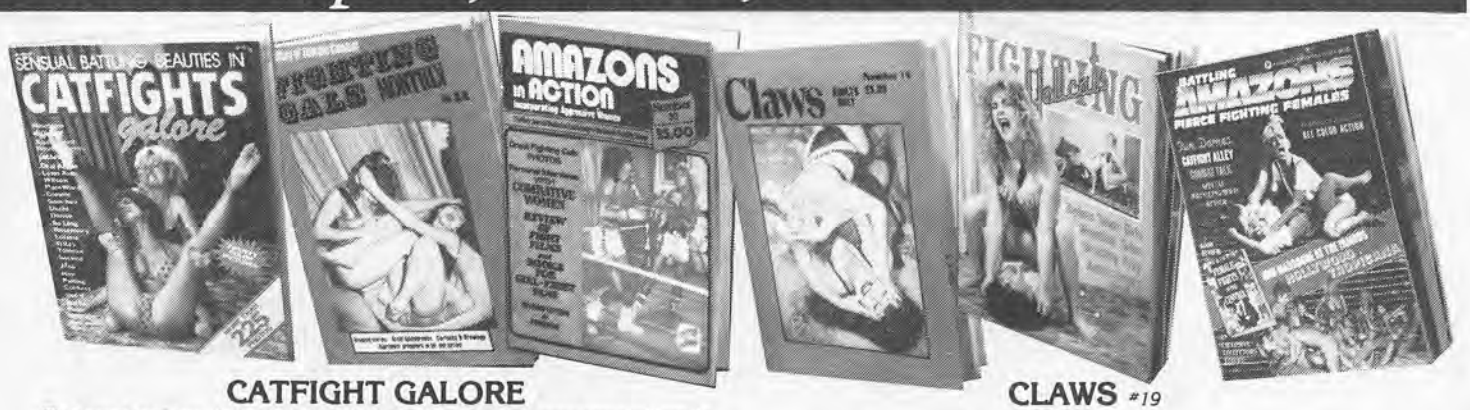


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### FIGHTING GALS *Monthly* *#11*

In this British publication you'll discover a new high in sensuous, savage, realistic female fight fiction in "A Woman of Honour". "Girl Wrestling Galore" is an all-photo feature depicting pro wrestling at its wildest and most brutal! Thrill to "Beaten By Beverly", "Humiliation At Rochdale", sensual cartoons and photos and much more!

### AMAZONS IN ACTION *#33*

Wrestling and boxing action worldwide: A detailed account of the British WCS tournament, which saw a tough blonde beauty introduce the ultimate in female submission holds! Great coverage of those cute, but savage, Thai kick-boxers! A nine-page, photo-packed piece on the sensational new German Mat Club. The latest on the Japanese women's wrestling scene. All this, plus much, much more!

### FIGHTING HELLCATS *#5*

Another color-crammed issue for the discriminating female fight fan! Includes: "Wrestling Twins," "Topless Tough Girls," "Back Breaking Bitch," and the return of Lynn Ann Wilson! All this plus 7 additional sensual and vicious bouts. Also, more from "Casey's Sketchbook," letters from our readers, fabulous fiction and so much more! A must for all catfight fans!

### CLAWS *#19*

Brings you the British apartment wrestling scene with fine photo coverage of the latest action among those battling beauties. In "Contenders" you'll read a no-details-spared account of a striptease kick-boxing bout! It matches a beautiful, ruthless Chinese tigress against a muscular German beauty. And there's more — fiction, photos, drawings — awaiting you in this exciting issue.

### BATTLING AMAZONS *#3*

A special issue with **16 full-color pages!** Thrill to an exciting topless apartment battle of the big boobs. Get down and watch Queen Kong kick ass! This issue has more cartoons and more pages in glorious color. Exciting letters too. You'll get the lowdown on all your favorite girl fight stars. Who's pinning who and loving it! Only in BATTLE AMAZONS.

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### TOURNAMENT TIGRESSES

Brings you the final matches of the tournament — and they are 3 gems! The first pairs Alison against June. This match erupts into a brawl before the openning bell sounds. The two girls never let up. Both are tough, strong and merciless. Bout 2 features club champion Lorraine, a tall, powerful beauty, against Suzie who is smaller but no less determined. Suzie gives Lorraine a rough time, but finally the champ exhibits a body scissor that goes beyond being punishment . . . it's paralyzing! The final match pits the champ Lorraine against the former champ Shiela. This is a contest you'll long remember. It's female wrestling at it's finest! *#RGV-4*

### BIKINI BOXING & WRESTLING

Features those kinky ladies of the British Isles. Bout one between Lori and Julie starts off as a boxing contest, but things quickly get out of hand and the gloves come off. Body slams and knee drops are used with devasting effect. The action is feverish. Highly recommended! The second encounter pits big Chinky, against trim, but murderous, Wilma in a bikini battle for survival. Both combatants are adept at illegal moves. Neither girl can keep contained in the skimpy bikini. A feast for lovers of violent female flesh! *#RGV-11*

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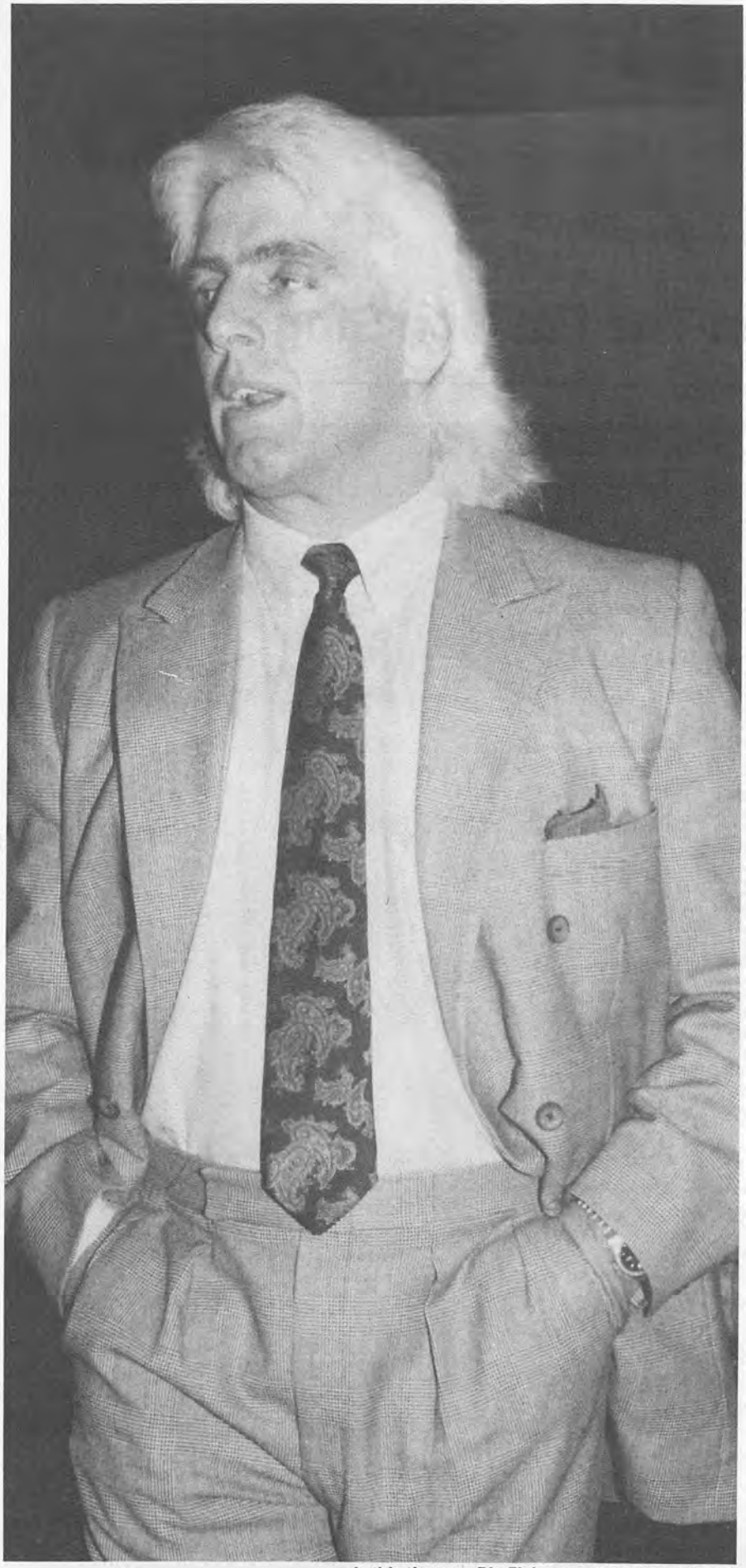
# PHANTOM of the ring

Well, fellow fanatics and followers, the Phantom is back!... Some of the biggest news of the month is the infiltration of a new wrestling organization in the United States. The organization is not new to the wrestling world by any extent. The group I speak of is the All-Japan Pro Wrestling group promoted by **The Giant Baba** of Japanese fame. The promotion is currently planning a nationwide tour to hit such cities as Kansas City and Las Vegas. Some wrestlers wrestling for All-Japan are **The British Bulldogs, The Funks, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Terry Gordy, Stan Hansen, Genichiro Tenryu, Jumbo Tsuruta, The Von Erichs, Akio Sato,** and **Tiger Mask,** among many other wrestlers from the land of the rising sun. This by the way is the second time that **Baba** has attempted to promote shows in the United States. A few years back, **Baba** had an interest in purchasing the American Wrestling Association (A.W.A.). If **Baba** can get the right T.V. coverage for his promotion in the U.S., he may become a mainstay in the U.S., and possibly other Japanese wrestling organizations will tour the states. Fans, if you have never seen a Japanese show before then you are definitely missing something out of this world!... More news from across the Pacific —**Tatsumi Fuginami,** who currently holds the international Grand Prix (I.W.G.P.) title and the Pacific Northwest Title defeated World Class Champion **Kerry Von Erich** in Tokyo at Korauken Hall before a sellout crowd. The title was given to **Fuginami** on a technicality due to excessive blood on the part of **Von Erich. Fuginami** though gave the title back because he didn't want to win the belt under those circumstances...By the way **Kerry Von Erich** it seems has recovered 100% since his motorcycle accident about two years back. I understand he has been under a new diet plan and a training schedule that accounts for his tremendous "cut up" physique. As many will remember, **Kerry** looks as good as when he first broke into the business back in 1980...**Bob Backlund** has returned to the ring, but in Japan. The former W.W.F. World Champ is having some heated confrontations with **Nobuhiko Takada** and **Akira Maeda. Backlund's** selling out arenas across the country of Japan...In U.S. news, **Nikita Koloff** is taking some time off from the sport. It seems that **Nikita** grew tired of being on the road every night, as most of today's competitors. He's currently wrestling for a few independent groups in the Southern U.S....**Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas** has recently changed his ways and attitude for the first time in his career. **Atlas** is currently feuding with **Ivan** and **Scott Putski** in the I.C.W. area. Many of the I.C.W.'s shows are showcased throughout the state of Maine...The **Blue Blazer** a.k.a. **Owen Hart** was out of action for a while with a groin injury suffered at the hands of **Greg "The Hammer" Valentine. The Blazer** is back now at 100%...**Ric Flair,** the N.W.A. World Champ turned 39 in February...The N.W.A. is still attempting to try a new outlook on the sport, hiring marketing and "big business" people to run their organization. Currently employed are **Jim Herd** who was formerly an executive from "Pizza Hut" and is now serving as Executive Vice President of the new Universal Wrestling Corporation and **Jack Petrik,** new executive president of the U.W.C. This is a step in the right direction, but as anything in wrestling, time will tell...You may have seen **Tim Horner** lately in the W.W.F. He's wrestling mostly in opening matches on W.W.F. cards, but soon a former tag team partner of **Horner's, Brad Armstrong,** will be headed in....Starrcade was nothing short of spectacular. Instead of going into some boring useless tripe that's five months old already, I would like to comment on two things. First, I thought that the **Rick Steiner/Mike Rotunda** match was nothing short of extraordinarily exciting. **Rick Steiner** is definitely destined for big things in this sport in times to come. Secondly, **Lex Luger** has really improved. At least in the Starrcade match against **Flair, Luger** looked pretty darn good. He was "cut up" like he was chiseled from a block of granite



*Is this the year Ric Flair sees duty in the WWF?*

and his wrestling looked pretty good as well...I thought the W.W.F.'s idea to place a microphone on **Bobby "The Brain" Heenan** during Saturday Night's Main Event was great. It was really entertaining to hear what spews out of the mouth of some of the managers. It should be incorporated more often...Speaking of managers, **Hubie Marx** was recently reprimanded by the State Athletic Commission concerning his rude unnecessary profanity towards his most hated nemesis, N.C.W. champ **Johnny Rodz...** You can catch all the action of **Johnny Rodz** and **Hubie** on Ch. 44 in New York City. All tapings are originating from Gleasons Gym in the heart of the big apple once a month. So if you're in the area, don't miss it!...That's all from the desk of the Phantom, until next month this is the Phantom signing off!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# Capt. Lou Albano

## "When The Fat Man Sings..."

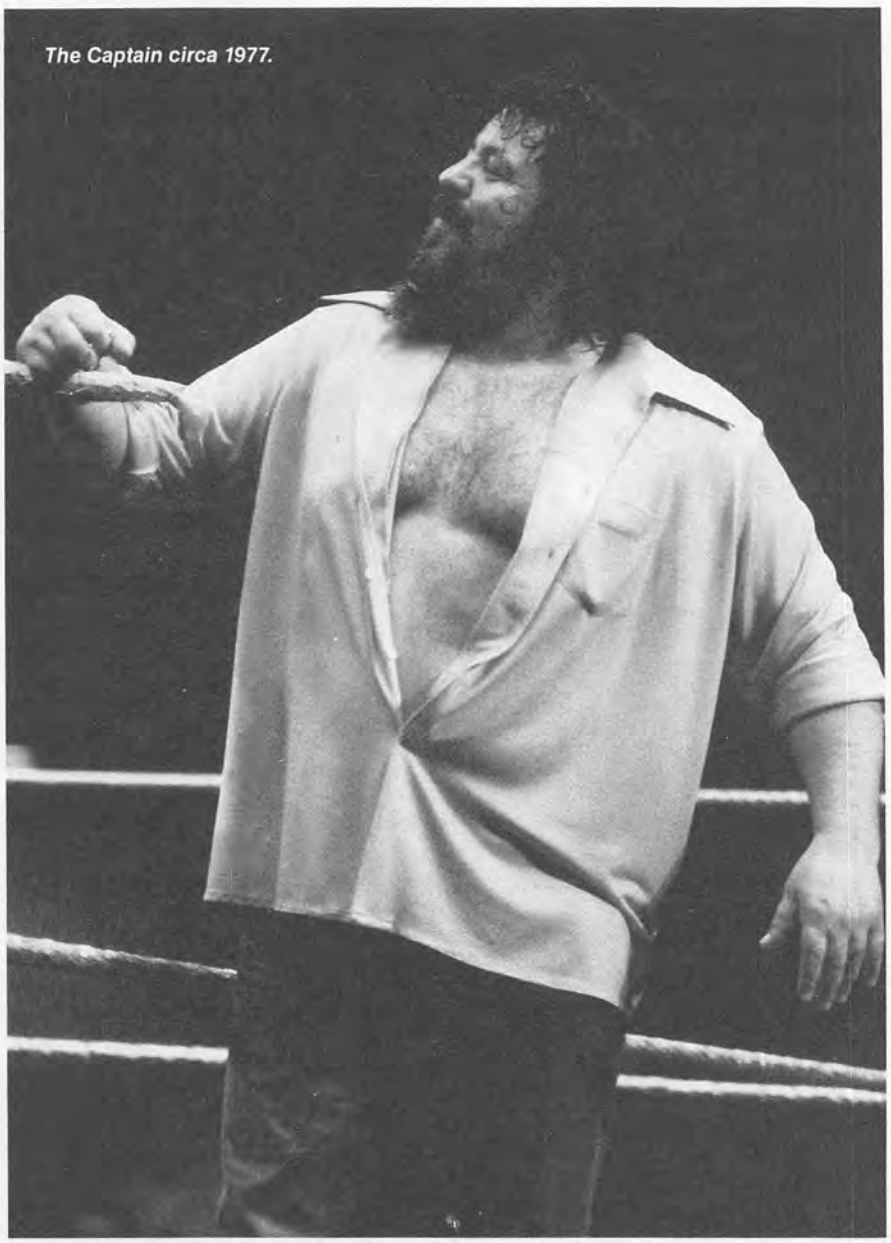
**by Tom Clutters**

In his many years as both a wrestler and manager, Capt. Lou Albano spent most of his time trying to keep up with a schedule that would have stretched a normal man beyond his limits. Following his retirement, however, the Captain has discovered that he has even less leisure time than he did before.

"Baby, I've been busier than a one-legged man at a butt kickin' contest," says Albano. "I didn't spend much time at home when I was one of wrestling's top attractions, and I'm seein' even less of the old home place now!"

During his illustrious career as "wrestling's greatest manager," Lou guided no less than 13 tag teams to a total of 16 World Wrestling Federation championships. Included among that number were three-time champs the Samoans, and Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, who won the belts on two occasions. A respected judge of wrestling talent, his charges also included the Moondogs, the Blackjacks, the Mongols and, of course, the British Bulldogs, his final champions. In addition, Don Muraco and Greg Valentine both used the Captain's genius to capture the Intercontinental title, and veteran Ivan Koloff was under Albano's guidance when he won the WWF world title. "It was great bein' known as a molder of champions," he says.

These days, the Captain's projects are numerous, especially his work as National Chairman for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. "Being chairman for MS is hard work, don't get me wrong," says Lou. "But it's the one thing I've found in my life than lets me pay back a little for all I've received. I've dedicated my energies to stamping out Multiple Sclerosis, and we've got a lot of fantastic people workin' with us. We'll work until we get the job done!"



*The Captain circa 1977.*

It wasn't so many years ago that charitable work would have been out of the question for Lou Albano. To be blunt, he was a hated man. His men were famous for taking

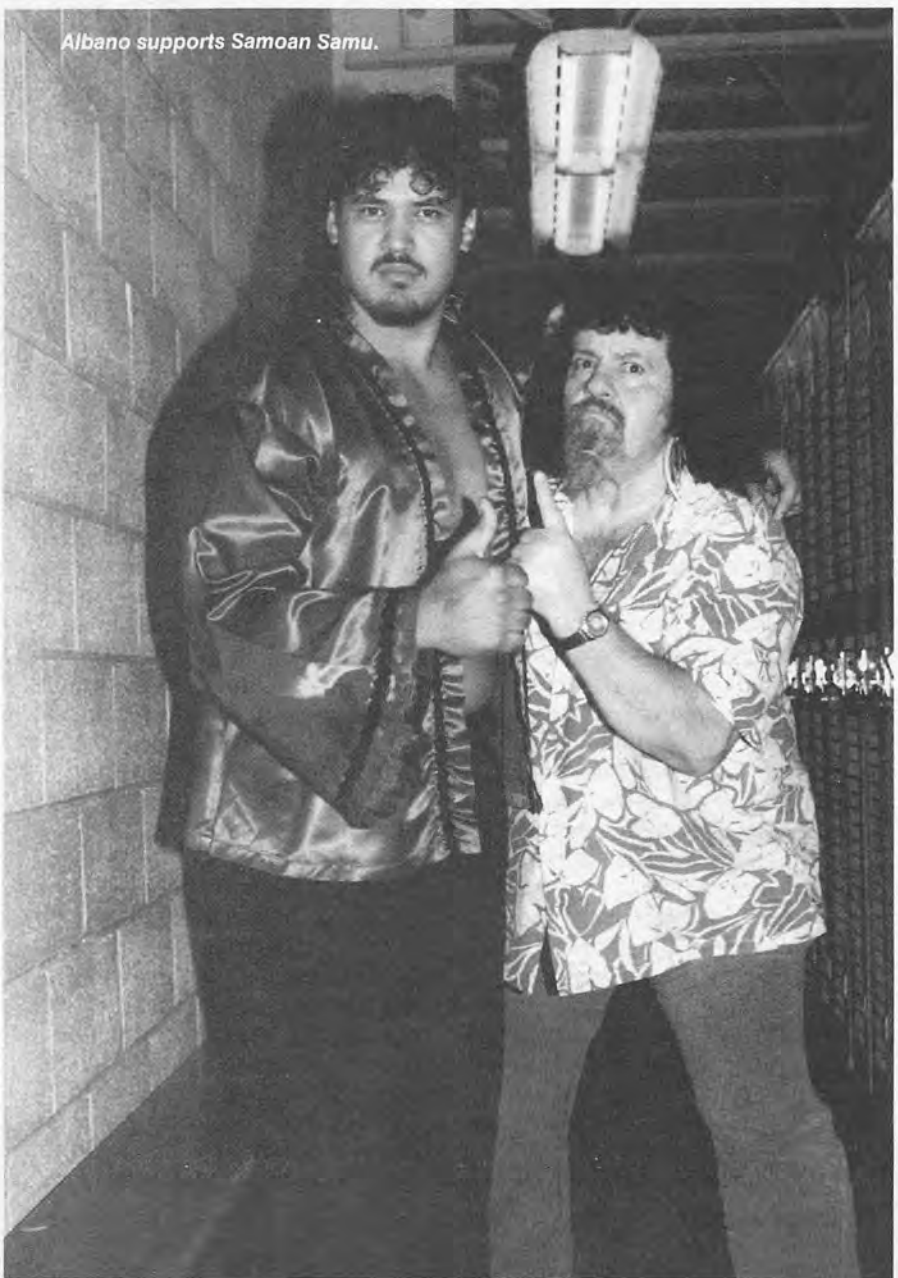
any type of shortcut needed to win a match, even if it meant the Captain had to interfere personally. Although he was successful, he certainly couldn't have been considered a "nice man." It all began to turn around when Lou became friends with rock star Cyndi Lauper. The two had feuded when Albano was managing the Fabulous Moolah and Lauper was seconding Wendi Richter, but over the months, they developed a sort of respect for each other, and eventually they became friends. Albano appeared in a couple of Lauper's videos, giving him his first national exposure outside the wrestling spectrum. "Cyndi Lauper is a fine lady," said Albano. "I didn't like her at first, but when the Captain saw that her heart was in the right place and all the wonderful work she was doing, well, I just had to be a part of it." Lauper was responsible for getting Albano involved with MS, and the good work which began then continues today.

Is it possible that all of this good that Cap. Lou is doing for mankind is a direct result of his rulebreaking past? "To be honest, the Captain could never repay for all of the bad things," he admits. "I'm very proud of what I accomplished in professional wrestling, but I'm not proud of all of my methods. Like I said, I'm doing what I can to give back something to a world that has put up with me and been good to me."

Another source of great pride for Lou Albano is his acting career, both on television and on the silver screen. His TV credits include shows like "227" and the "Hollywood Squares." He was a major star in the films "Wise Guys" with Joe Piscopo and Danny DeVito, and "Body Slam" which, by the way, is now available on videocassette. "It was rumored that I might be Academy Award material," claims the Captain. "But right now, acting is just another facet of my life. If I should decide to devote myself to it full-time, I could be the greatest star Hollywood has ever seen."

Proving the age-old adage that wrestling gets into your blood for life, Albano still keeps his hand in the sport, making numerous public appearances and maintaining his 900 telephone news service with

*The Captain was the pioneer of the Rock 'n Wrestling Connection.*



*Albano supports Samoan Samu.*

*Captain Lou, humanitarian, hero & wrestling delegate.*

mat legend Bruno Sammartino. This enables the Captain to stay up with current events in the sport, plus provide knowledgeable comments on the profession's various aspects. One subject which Albano has some strong opinions is, of course, managers. "let me tell ya sometin' baby. Whenever you talk about wrestling managers, you always have to compare 'em with me, 'cause I'm the best there ever was. My record proves that. Most of 'em today couldn't shine the Captain's tennis shoes. There are a few, guys like Jimmy Hart, J.J. Dillon, and maybe Bobby Heenan, who command a certain amount of respect, but most of 'em just don't measure up. They try to get it done, they say they get it done, but daddy, they DON'T get it done!!"

According to Albano, many wrestlers have contacted him since his retirement about handling their careers. "A lot of men have come to the Captain and wanted him to guide them. I won't say I'll never return to managing, but right now, I don't see it happening," he said. "If I told you the names of some of the superstars that I've turned down, you wouldn't believe me."

What does Capt. Lou Albano see for the future of the sport? "Nothin' but big things. Big things. Some promoters are trying to corner the market on talent, but I believe it'll backfire on 'em in time," commented the Captain. "This world is just too big for one man or one organization to try to run the whole show. There are certain things I like about all of the federations, and certain things I don't like, but I believe that wrestling, pure and simple, will be the choice of the fans in the end."

In his long and glorious career, who does Albano rate as the best he's ever seen? "Well, you can start with men like Bruno Sammartino and Lou Thesz, and go from there," he says. "Some of the older guys were fabulous, but I can see some guys in the business today who could outshine them. In fact, with someone like the Captain to show them the way, well, I'll have to think about that." In the meantime, Capt. Lou Albano says he will continue with his busy life, especially trying to put an end to MS. Despite his bombastic outward appearance, he is a kind and caring man, and the entire world is better for having him in it.

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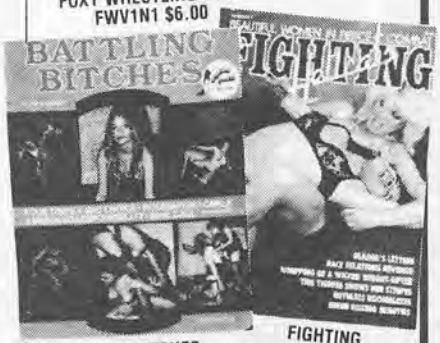


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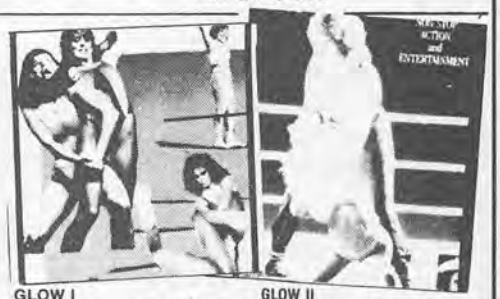


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**PEN PALS**

**ALI NYKANEN**—Age 17, Star Route 1, Box S-390, Edgewood, New Mexico 87015 would appreciate hearing from any fan of the NWA, WWF, WCCW, CWF, and AWA.

**DAVID DUGGAN**—13721 12th Ave S.W., Seattle, Wa 98166 would like to hear from fans of the Hulkster, Randy Savage, Ultimate Warrior, Brutus Beefcake, Koko B. Ware, Jim Duggan, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jake Roberts, Hillbilly Jim. Ken Patera, Don Muraco, Blue Blazer, Hercules, Sam Houston, Tito Santana, JYD, George Steele and Ricky Steamboat.

**LYNN WALTERS**—Age 16, P.O. Box 817, Proctorville, Ohio 45669 would like to hear from fans of the Midnight Express, Lex Luger, Ted DiBiase, Al Perez, Johnny Ace, Bret Hart, Curt Hennig and Ric Flair.

**DARREN POWELL**—Age 17, 1235 Baker Rd, Dexter, Mi 48130 would like to hear from Rick Rude, Badd Company, British Bulldogs, Hulk Hogan, Elizabeth, Ric Flair, Lex Luger, Hercules, Eddie Gilbert and the Ultimate Male.

**CASSONDRA HEINING**—9314 S. Kenwood Ave. Chicago, Ill 60619 would like to hear from any Sting, Lex Luger, Stan Lane, Ricky Rice, Jon Paul and Hulk Hogan fans.

**MAZKI BAHAR**—Age 27, Apt Blk. 216, Lor. 8, #21-607, Toa Payoh, Singapore (1231) Rep. of Singapore would like to keep updated on the WWF and the NWA. Some of his favorites include Roddy Piper, Chris Adams, Dr Death, Randy Savage, Sting, Hulk Hogan, British Bulldogs and Rick Rude.

**MARTY TERRY**—482 Front St, Apt 1-L, Hempstead, NY 11550 would like to hear from all guys interested in pro or college wrestling and those who would like to become pro wrestlers.

**KIM LeBOWSKY**—Age 20, 420 Eastern, Toledo, Ohio 43609 would love to hear from all WWF fans around the world. She likes the Rockers, George Steele, Ultimate Warrior, Hacksaw Jim Duggan and lots more.

**TERRA YANDA**—2334 W. Hwy V. Two Rivers, Wi 54241 would like to hear from anyone who likes Brutus Beefcake, Ultimate Warrior, Jake the Snake, Bret Hart, Elizabeth, Hulk Hogan, Macho Man, British Bulldogs, Rockers, JYD, Koko B. Ware, Hercules, Demolition and other WWF wrestlers. Also, anyone who HATES Brother Love, Big Bossman, Bobby Heenan, King Haku, Bad New Brown and more. Will answer all letters.

**JULIE HODES**—Age 20, 12 Leighton Terrace, Upper Darby, Pa 19082 would like to hear from fans of all good wrestlers in the WWF and NWA.

**TINA D. DEAL**—Age 15, 212 Spicers Mill Rd, Orange, Va 22960 wants pen pals who love the WWF and the NWA. Some favorites include Sting, Lex Luger, Fantastics, Midnight Express, Bret Hart and many more. She promises to answer all letters.

**PATCHES SLANE**—Age 12, RR #2, Box 189, Robinson, Ill 62454 would like to hear from fans of the Rockers, Demolition, Roddy Piper, Madusa Miceli, Manny Fernandez and Nikita Koloff. Will answer all letters.

**JACKIE KNAPP**—Age 22, 43 Central St, Moravia, NY 13118 likes the Von Erichs, Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Sam Houston and other good guys.

**PENNY SMITH**—Age 17, Rt 5 Box 2265, Elizabethton, Tn 37643 loves Jeff Jarrett and is interested in hearing from other fans. She is also interested in buying pictures, posters, clipping etc....

**KEVIN P. GODDARD**—Age 24, 640 Margrave St, Harriman, Tn 37748 would like to hear from fans of Barry and Kendall Windham, Kevin Von Erich, Simpson Brothers and anyone who is interested in becoming a professional wrestler.

**DULCE DE LUCAS**—P.O. Box 974, Castroville, Ca 95012 would like to hear from fans of Brutus Beefcake, Rick Rude, Sting, Randy Savage, Demolition and Ultimate Warrior.

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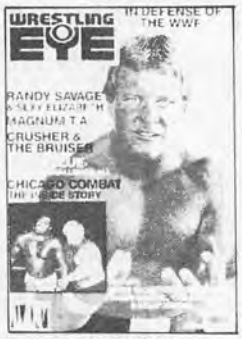

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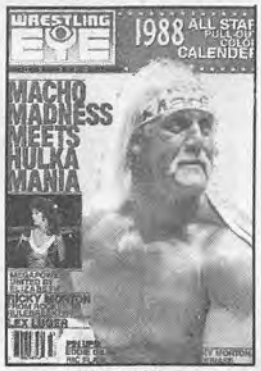


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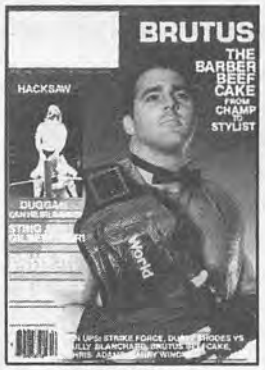


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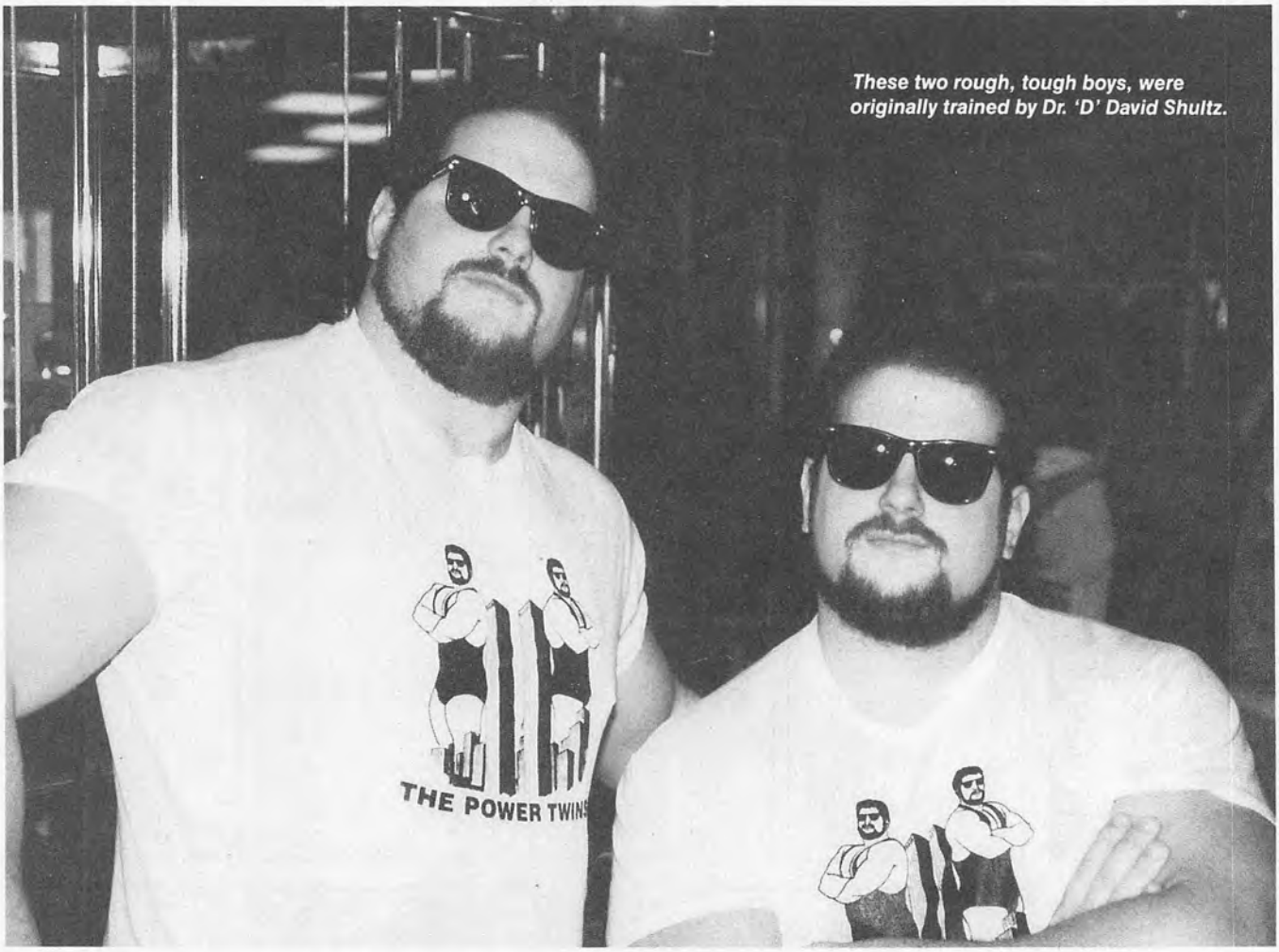
# THE POWER TWINS

## "Tired Of Being Ignored"

by Andrew McCarthy photos by William Meisner




*These two rough, tough boys, were originally trained by Dr. 'D' David Shultz.*

The time has come. In fact, if you speak with anyone who has seen them in action, the time came about a year ago when they began to drop every opponent to the mat merely on a whim. That's right. A year ago. That's when the Power Twins began their menacing race to the top of the Professional Wrestling World.

"We go to places and the promoters don't know what to do with us," says Larry Sontag, one half of these gigantic mountains of doom. "The promoters are afraid that we are going to hurt their favorite boys! It's crazy! I say right here and now that the Power Twins should be given a chance to go out and show what we can do! I think that there are a lot of people out there who are afraid of us!"

Larry Sontag might have a point. Several sources have claimed that when they have gone and seen the Power Twins wrestle, the twins have been held back or disqualified for very small technicalities. Dave Sontag agrees with his brother. Slamming his massive fist on the interview table, he screamed his point: "Hey! We have the combination, the strength, and we can wrestle and kick butt better than anyone out there in the top spots. That's right —and you can print that! We combine all the necessities for successful wrestlers. Let's face it.

*Both brothers are former powerlifters.*

People ARE ignoring us! And we don't like it."

Don't be fooled. These Twin Terrors of Power are angry. Very angry. in fact, the more they speak about their objections to various promoters, the angrier they become. "We are ready to take on anyone!" screams Dave Sontag. "All I have to say is that they can ignore us all they want. Fine. But sooner or later people are gonna have to face facts. My brother and I are the best. We'll prove it to anyone. Anytime."

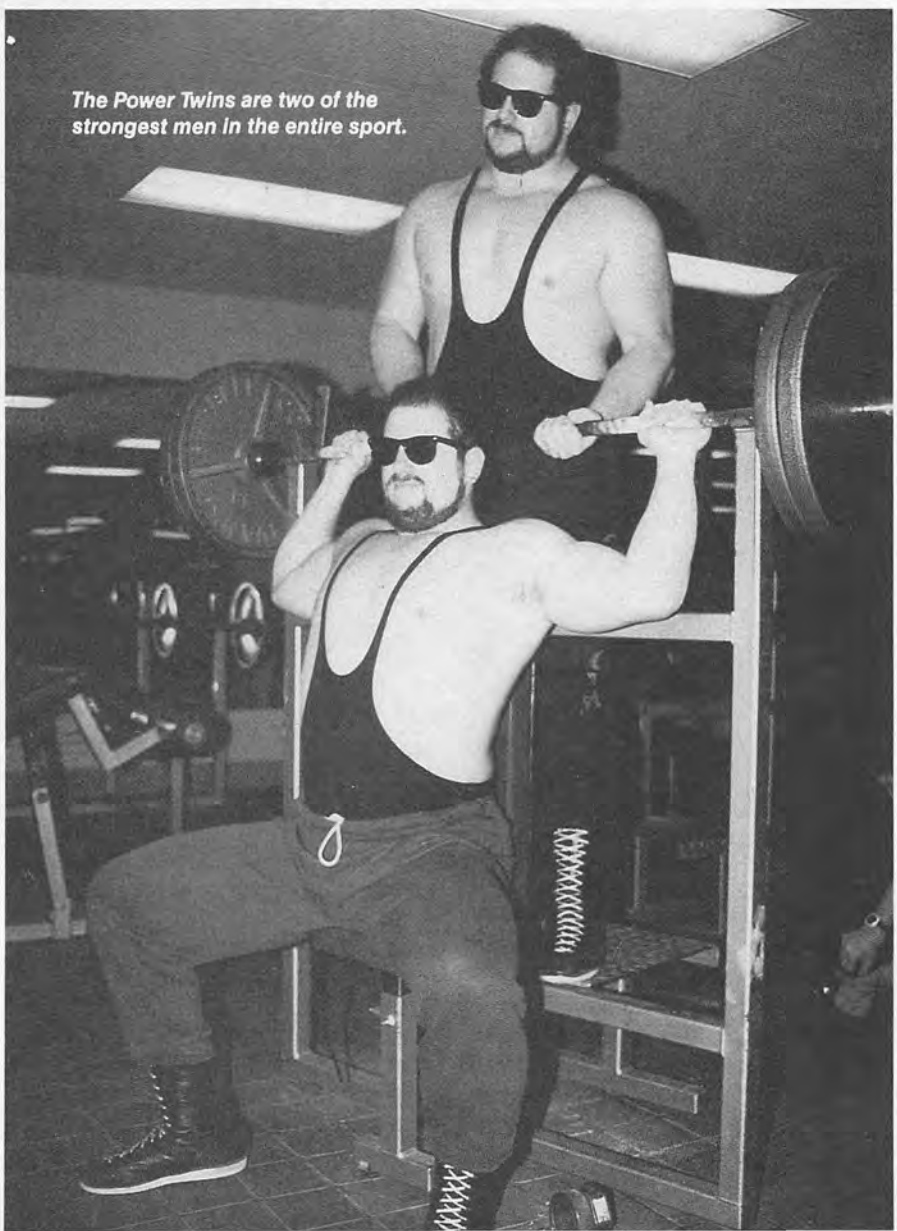
Dave and Larry Sontag have been making their way around the world, proving their point over and over again every time they wrestle. Austria, South Africa, Canada, America, West Germany, East Germany; everywhere they go, The Power Twins have left their opponents either flat on the mat, or bleeding back in the dressing room. These boys are mean. Very mean.

"The Powers of Pain, The Road Warriors, Midnight Express, The Hart Foundation—we can stay with them the whole match," says Dave Sontag, flexing a rock-hard bicep. "That's right. We're as big as them and as talented as they are. We're hungry and want them. Very soon." Then, pausing for a moment of thought, Dave Sontag pointed a finger at his brother and said, "As soon as we get the chance, we are gonna WIN!"

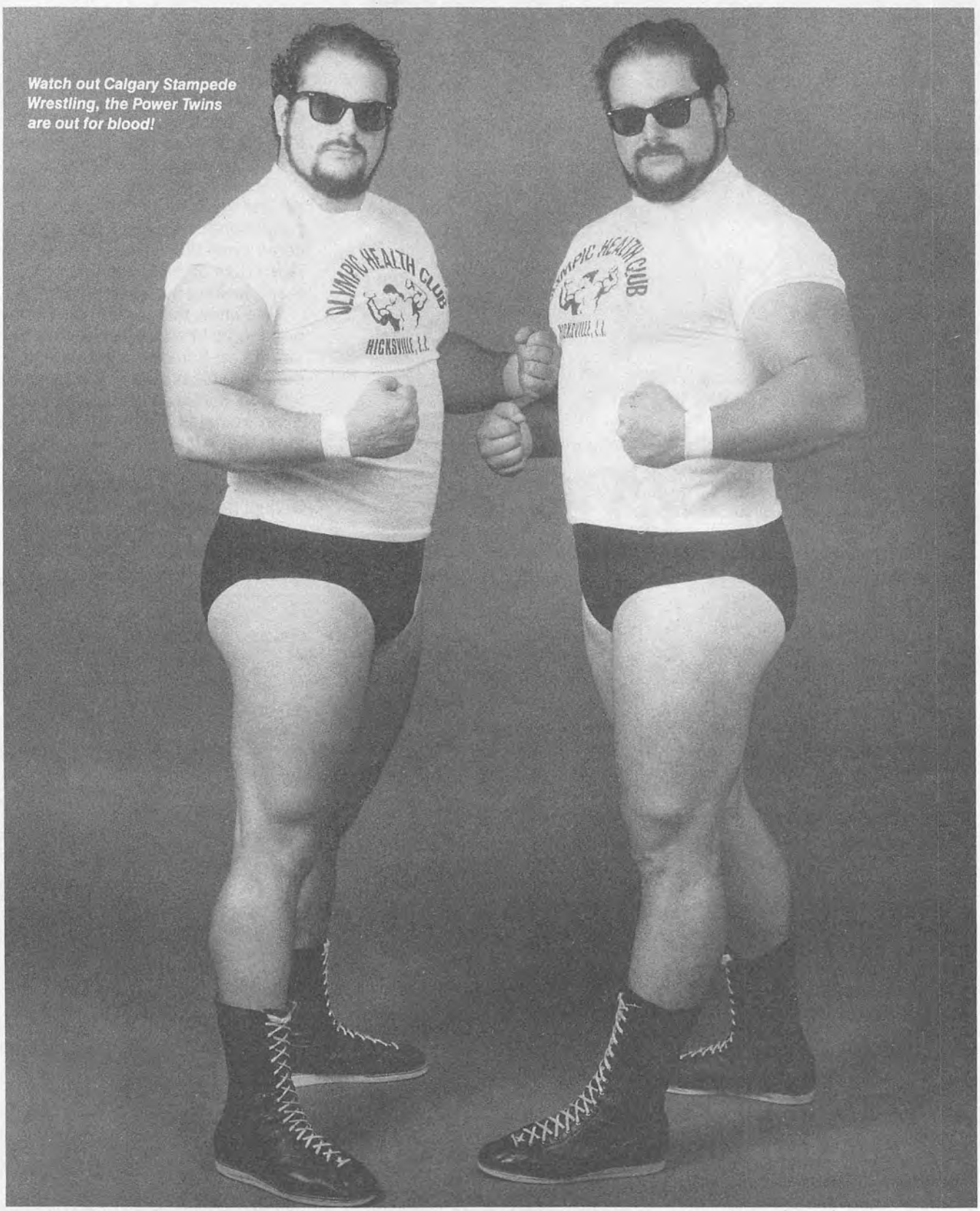
The Power Twins' record is very impressive. They are undefeated. They have been disqualified only twice in two years. And everywhere they go they defeat the favorites—much to the collective chagrin of the home crowd. Any pro wrestler can tell you that it is quite a feat to go into another's lion's den and come away the victor. The Power Twins do it on a regular basis. To them, kicking butt is a good living.

"We know that we can pin our opponents in about 30 seconds," says Dave Sontag matter-of-factly, punching his brother. "But we prefer to let them run around a little. Then we catch them and make them hurt a little. We like to play with them, give them something to remember us by. If they come back we just beat them up a little more."

The Power Twins say emphatically that their goal is nothing else



*The Power Twins are two of the strongest men in the entire sport.*




*Watch out Calgary Stampede Wrestling, the Power Twins are out for blood!*

than to be the crowned champs of the world. What is most unnerving about them is their incredible self-confidence in their abilities. They are quite sure of themselves. In a way they are any promoter's dream: The Twin Towers, they're mean, strong, tough and confident …soon they are going to make some lucky promoter very happy.

Note: As of press time the Power Twins, Larry and David were recently signed to a contract to wrestle for Stampede Wrestling in Calgary, Alberta Canada. Currently the Twins are after Calgary favorites and former W.W.F. World Tag Team Champs, The British Bulldogs, Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid. Finally, the Power Twins have an opportunity to prove themselves in the wrestling world. WRESTLING EYE wishes these boys much deserved good luck and much success.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I was reading WRESTLING EYE'S OFFICIAL RATINGS and I want to know why the Road Warriors are number 1 in the Top 15 Tag Teams? Why does everyone think they are so great? My favorite tag team is the Fantastics. They're the best team in wrestling and also the most popular. Whoever doesn't think the Fantastics belong in the number 1 spot are ignorant. To me, it's just a matter of size. I mean just because the Road Warriors are a little bit bigger that doesn't mean that they are better than Bobby and Tommy. Why do people say the Fantastics are short? That is not so! Bobby and Tommy are of average height. True, other wrestlers may be taller but it certainly doesn't make them better. I think the Fantastics deserve the number 1 spot in all the ratings.

A Fantastics Fan
Ft Worth, Tx

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I enjoy reading the most informative wrestling magazine around—WRESTLING EYE.

I have been a loyal fan of the WWF for a few years now. I really don't understand why the WWF continues to put these amateurs in the squared circle against well schooled ring veterans. These amateurs who can barely mount any form of an offense whatsoever get mauled by the ring vets. I mean if you put an excellent grappler like Ted DiBiase in the ring with an amateur like Van Van Horne, I'm almost positive DiBiase will mutilate the youngster unless a fluke occurs. Things should be more evened out. For example let DiBiase battle it out with Koko B. Ware or the Blue Blazer not Van Van Horne or Brian Costello.

M.T. Bowman
Annville, Pa

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

In your Jan '89 issue there were a couple of letters concerning who's better, the WWF or the NWA and I'd like to voice my opinion. There are two major problems with the WWF. The first and biggest is that they have sooo much talent but not enough belts. A match means so much more when it's fought with a belt on the line! The other problem is that it's not as "believable" as the NWA. For example, the WWF has junk like a stupid "mutt" managing the British Bulldogs. I can't believe great wrestlers like the Bulldogs would lower themselves to a silly gimmick like that!

The WWF better get their act together or the NWA will be the ONLY major league of professional wrestling. The WWF should add more belts to their federation.

Mike Landolfi
Drexel Hill, Pa

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

Let me tell you something. The NWA fans got ripped off once again. Starrcade '88 was great but people like me who paid to see it on pay-per-view didn't see the whole thing. After the main event they were already recapping the night. Also, you could hear the ring announcer saying "please stay seated. The first Bunkhouse Stampede of 1988 will begin shortly." Well the people who got it on pay-per-view really got ripped off. We didn't get to see the Bunkhouse Stampede at all. A word to the NWA, if you want to keep your fans STOP RIPPING US OFF!

Forrest Hensley
Bordentown, NJ

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I'm writing in response to the letter from Jonathan Reed in the Jan '89 issue. I've been a loyal fan of the WWF for a year and I think that three titles in the WWF is plenty! Ken Patera and Bret Hart already had a title. So did the One Man Gang (Akeem) in another federation. McMahon will not lose anybody! Another letter that caught my eye was one written by Nancy Sodano. She is *so* right. Hulk Hogan has the best body ever. Rick Rude doesn't even compare.

Kelly Marshall
Birmingham, Al

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I watch NWA wrestling all the time. My favorite wrestlers are Sting and Lex Luger. I think Sting is the best wrestler the NWA will have in the 1900's and that he will beat Ric Flair for the belt very soon. So Ric Flair, you'd better watch out because the Stinger is out to take you down, and as for your nosy manager J.J. Dillon, he will get him too.

Nancy Enders
San Jose, Ca

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I read your article "An Exclusive Interview" with Roddy Piper, He Lives" (Dec '88) and I loved it! It was great to finally see something about Roddy since he has left wrestling.

The pictures of him are just terrific. He is such a handsome man. Roddy, if you happen to be reading

this, I just want to let you know how much I miss seeing you and listening to you every time I tune into wrestling. You are still "Hot" to me "Rod". Best wishes to you Rod in everything you do. Also, WRESTLING EYE keep up the great work.

Nan Smith
Staatsburg, NY

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

Your magazine is terrific! I'm a big fan of Hulk Hogan. I think it's sad that Hogan isn't the champion anymore. There's only one man standing in his way and that's Randy Savage, the man that's just using Hulk Hogan. Savage is probably afraid of Hogan. I think Hogan should wrestle Savage for the belt and win the heart of the lovely Elizabeth. Meanwhile, Hogan, keep up the good work.

Sammie J. Walters
Ohio

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I want the people in the world to stop harassing Barry Windham. He's the best wrestler in the world and what he did to Lex Luger was great. I back him up 100%. Barry is at the peak of his career. After all, he's the U.S. champ and him and Ric Flair will become either U.S. or World Tag Team champions in the near future. Barry can take care of that Wimp from the East, Bam Bam Bigelow. I want to tell J.J. Dillon two things. One, you are the best manager and two, you should try to get the Road Warriors or Garvin and Perez as a team and get the Four Horsemen back up.

Bill Owens
Wilkes Barre, Pa

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I really enjoy reading your magazine. I like Hogan, Jake the Snake and Bret Hart but the Ultimate Warrior is the best ever. Honky Tonk Man and Jimmy Hart say that Honky is the best I.C. champ ever, but he sure didn't show it against the Warrior. I like the Macho Man and all but I think Bad News Brown deserves a title shot, not that I like him, I just think he deserves it. Elizabeth is gorgeous. She has the greatest body ever and is a very intelligent manager.

Would you please give me an address where I could write her?

Nat Ozment
Hbg, Il

*Editors Note: You can write all your WWF favorites at Titan Sports, P.O. Box 6789, Stamford, CT 06904*

**Dear WRESTLING EYE,**

I'd like to comment on the letter Wendy Ellis wrote in your Jan '89 issue. I agree with her. Sting is the sexiest wrestler in the sport today.

I would also like to comment on the letter written by Rynda Roberts. Why is it that when a wrestler changes his ways from bad to good and does something he wants to do to his outfits that people like you get upset about it? If that's what he wants to do then he has the right to do it. This is a free country, is it not? Besides, Beefcake has a much better physique than Hogan will ever have.

Venny St. Wally
Ponca City, Ok

**Dear EDITOR,**

I really enjoyed reading the article on Cora Combs in your January, 1989 issue. As a fan who dates back to the 1950's, I can remember many of Ms. Combs exciting and action filled matches against the other greats of that era, e.g. June Byers, Mildred Burke, Babs Wingo, etc. Without a doubt, these gals were great wrestlers and could certainly excite the fans. However, I don't agree with Ms. Combs opinion of today's female wrestlers.

I think that many of the top girl wrestlers today are skilled grapplers, well trained, aggressive, and, most important, well conditioned athletes. Sure many of them "can't wait to strut in front of the fans in their skimpy suits". The "glamour" end of wrestling has always been an aspect of wrestling, particularly with the girls. The fans enjoy that along with the athletic competition, just ask any of the male fans. The female wrestlers of today have well conditioned, athletic, and beautiful physiques. Why wouldn't they take pride in showing themselves off for the fans? The girl wrestler of today is far less inhibited, better built, not about to have her agility hampered by a hot, restrictive swim suit, and is not faced with old fashion dress codes. Likewise, the fans are more "in-tune with the times" too. I don't think the modern girl wrestler is just trying to "sell her looks" as Ms. Combs claims. The girl wrestler of today is able to combine looking good with athletic skill. What more could the fans ask for?

Some of the best girl wrestlers around today are able to get on the mat and wrestle like true, competitive athletes and, at the same time, look beautiful and sexy doing it. That's what brings in the crowds! A few examples? Madusa Miceli, Misty Blue Simms, "Nina", Heidi Lee Morgan, and, my favorite, the Magnificent Mimi. Wouldn't it be great to see a match-up between one of the greats of the 50's, such as June Byers, and one of today's girls like the Magnificent Mimi? Talk about a SRO crowd!

Actually, in looking back, I would not paint such a dim picture of how the women wrestlers of the 50's were attired. True, they did tend to wrestle in heavily reinforced, one piece, neck length swim suits that, undoubtedly, were "safer" than what some of the girls are wearing today. Certainly, most fans would agree that the modern girl wrestlers are taking greater risks that embarrassing "accidents" might happen during the heat of battle when they wear thin, skimpy suits. But if they are at ease with those risks, that's their decision. In contrast, although the women of the 50's wore these heavier, fuller suits, many also wrestled in bare feet and bare-legged, e.g. Ann Casey, Judy Grable, etc. This, in some ways, was more "revealing" than the "pantyhose" and boots being donned by some of the girls today. It is also, in my opinion, a more "natural" way to wrestle.

In any case, I feel both "generations" of female wrestlers displayed good wrestling skills but today's girls are more athletic and have more "pizzazz".

Yours truly,
R. M. Blackburn
Enfield, Ct

# Brandi Mae

## Wrestling's Country Cutie By Don Liable

Throughout the wrestling world she's everybody's sweetheart. No one has ever said an uncomplimentary remark about her. And what's not to like? Some mat veterans have gone on the record as saying that Brandi Mae of Spivey, Kansas is too kind for the brutality associated with wrestling. Don't let Brandi's cute and cuddly features fool you, not for a minute. She has total respect for the rulebook and does all in her power during a match to adhere to the regulations enforced by the referee. However, when provoked by her advantage-seeking opponents, Brandi Mae can "fight fire with fire." She won't allow any wrestler to abuse her goodhearted nature. Only a touring pro for three years, Brandi Mae has quickly and unquestionably put her stamp on the female wrestling division. Not a pushover to any challenger, the 5'2" 115 lb. Brandi Mae continues to battle her way to the women's world title in style.

If the name Brandi Mae doesn't ring a bell in your wrestling minds, perhaps you are more familiar with another tag affixed to her by promoters—"The Farmer's Daughter". The Georgeous Ladies of Wrestling (GLOW) organization was the launching pad for Brandi into professional wrestling. Appearances on the Glow weekly syndicated television show brought about almost instant celebrity status for Brandi Mae. From her initial televised match, along with her frequent tag-team partner Malibu, Brandi caught on with the fans. "Everyone connected with GLOW is pleased and proud as can be of the advancement of Brandi Mae in the pro ranks. When she first approached us about a possible career in wrestling, I can honestly tell you, we were a bit hesitant. Brandi looked better suited for a career in modeling. Her small frame didn't appear to be able to withstand the roughness that goes on in the ring. She wouldn't take no for an answer. Today, of all the girls that have gone through the GLOW program, Brandi is our most successful," GLOW Executive David McLaine said.

It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out when the ring announcer introduces the participants in the ring who's "The Farmer's Daughter" and who's not. The light blonde hair, cut off short she wears as trunks and the half-cut tank top shirt around the upper torso of Brandi Mae clearly differentiates her as the glamour queen of wrestling. Thus far, since branching out from GLOW, the popular blonde has faired well for herself in the American Wrestling Association. Madusa Miceli and Debbie Combs,

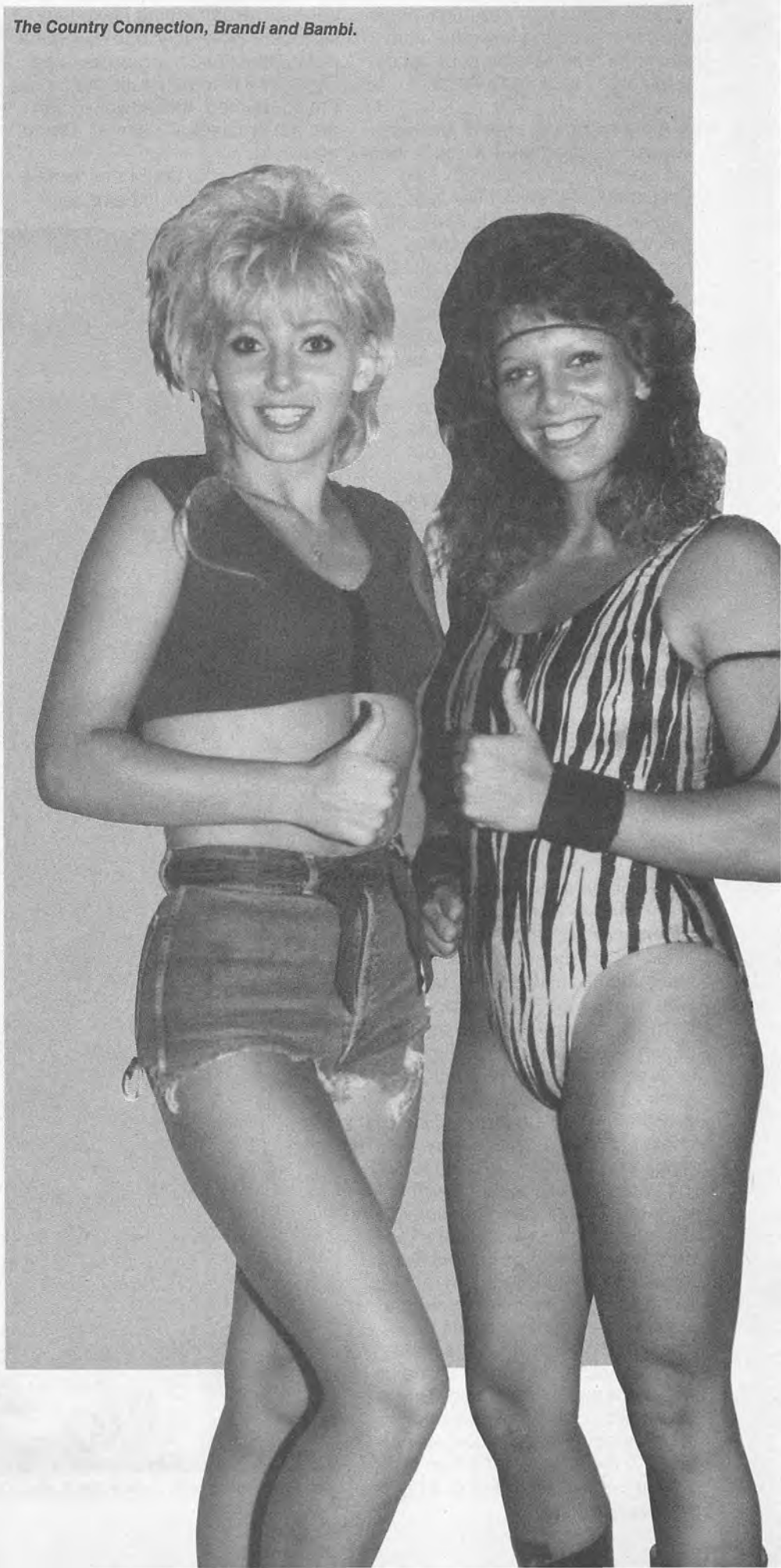
*Undoubtly one of the most attractive ladies in the sport.*

two crafty veterans who have ruled the womens wrestling roost in the AWA for quite some time, have tried everything short of using a baseball bat to steer the energetic Brandi Mae away from them. Insecurity may be the main factor why Madusa and Debbie have been reluctant to sign a series of open contracts which would allow Brandi to fill in her name as their worthy opponent.

"Jealous? Me? Far from it. I'm pretty. I look just as attractive in my ring attire as that "washboard witch" of Kansas. Madusa and I are afraid of no woman. Brandi's just not ready for wrestlers of our caliber, pure and simple. Ok, so I haven't scored a pinfall over Brandi yet but, baby, once I get warmed up I'll wipe her all around the ring. She'll learn to respect me, one way or another. The one match we had in Las Vegas didn't take place on my best day. I let too many other things distract me. That's why we went to a twenty minute draw," Debbie Combs furiously stated.

When not participating in singles competition, Heidi Lee Morgan of Atlantic City, New Jersey is the most frequent companion to Brandi these days. The two have worked well as a unit. Debbie Combs, Mae's number one nemesis, stooped to the level of importing the duo of Donna Day and Lady Satan from Nashville, Tennessee, in hopes of ridding Brandi and Heidi from wrestling in a painful yet permanent manner. The plan was foiled.

The tag match which took place in Park River, North Dakota didn't last too long for many of the fans on hand in the arena to remember much of what took place. The timekeeper's official logging for the encounter of four minutes has proven to be the single most embarrassing event in Combs' wrestling days. "Combs thought she had all the bases covered going into that battle. Brandi and I had a great workout that day and strategically, in detail, that afternoon planned out our attack for the headhunting squad Combs sent after us. Day and Lady Satan didn't intimidate us in the least. We stuck to our game plan and just plain out smarted them. Brandi cradled up Donna for the three count a lot sooner than we both thought we



*The Country Connection, Brandi and Bambi.*

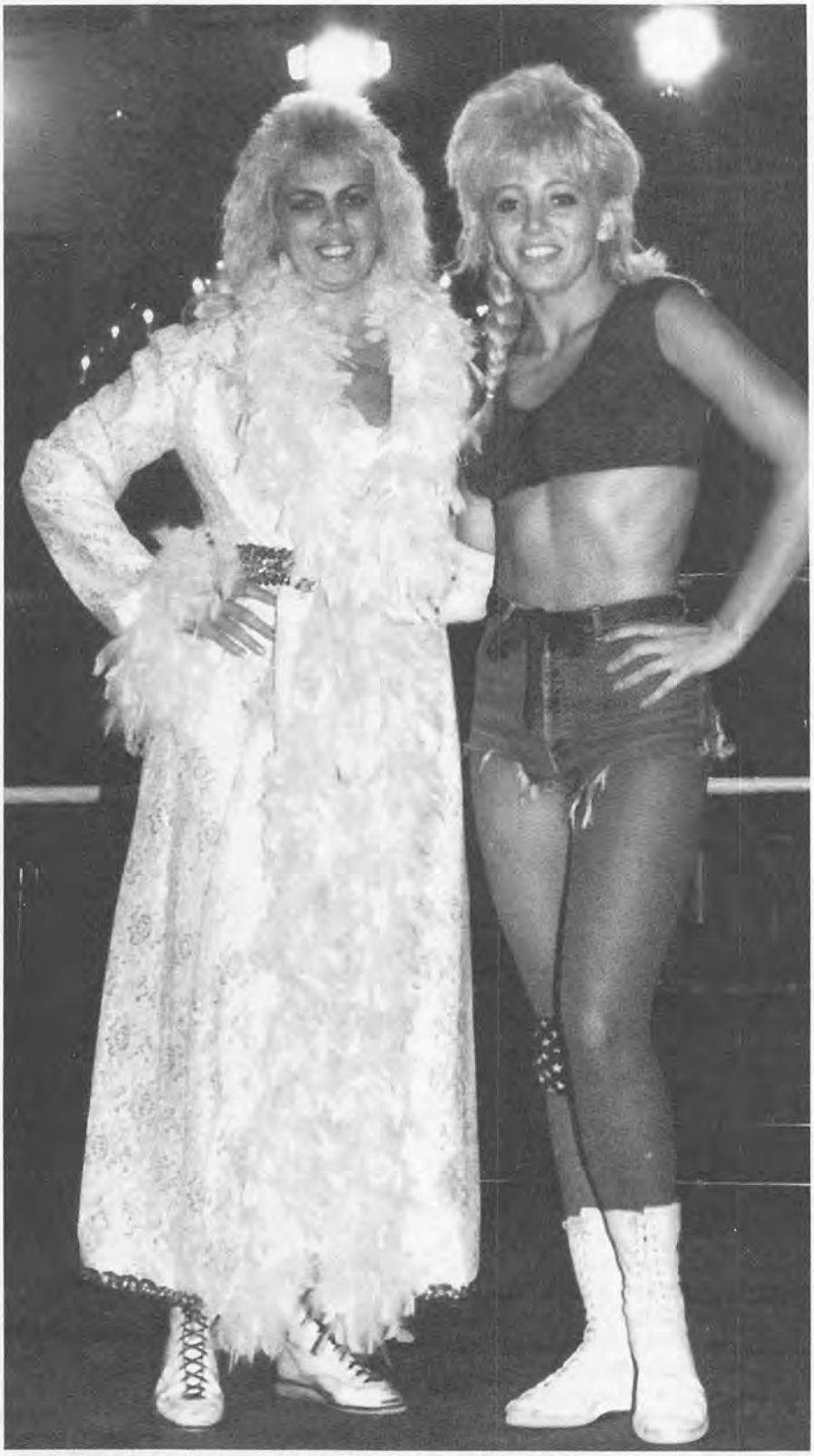
could. What a sight, seeing Debbie have tears coming down her face when the referee raised our hands in victory,'' Heidi Lee Morgan recalled.

Already, Brandi Mae is diversifying her wrestling knowledge. When not wrestling, Brandi is advising the career of a fellow farm person, Cousin Luke. During his AWA commitments, Brandi accompanies him to the ring, handles his attire and coaches him from ringside. Thus far the two have done well as a unit. What makes Brandi Mae and Cousin Luke even more enjoyable at the arenas is after his matches, the pair engage in a down home square dance. The country guitar music blares out over home square dance. The country guitar music blares out over the public address system, the audience begins to clap in unison to the sounds as Brandi and Luke do their two-stepping to their on-lookers' appreciation.

''Misty Blue and Linda Dallas are two other women wrestlers whom Brandi has targeted from contract signings. She makes no bones about being considered for a world title match with whomever is wearing the strap. Brandi knows the championship committee closely reviews the caliber of her opponents. On the East Coast, no women in the sport receives as much media attention and score as many wins as Blue and Dallas. A victory over one of them would clearly make Brandi a shoe-in for a title match,'' Lee Marshall, television voice of the AWA, said.

The difference between the rate of progression in her wrestling skills as compared to Brandi's opponents is her personal background. Living on a farm, doing chores at a set time everyday tends to keep a person used to doing things by a schedule. Farm work is difficult, often strenuous, but most of all, honest. That's the approach Brandi has carried over to her mat career. Each day, at the same time, Brandi goes through a specially designed exercise program, and works out on the mats. ''People tell me I improve a little bit with each match. I hope so. That's what I shoot for. Sometimes that improvement doesn't come as noticably to the athlete but it sure is a pleasure to hear. Wrestling is my career, it is something I take very seriously. Hopefully, one day I'll be put in the same category as June Byers and Mildred Bruke. As far as I'm concerned, those two women are the greatest of all-time,'' Brandi Mae said.

For those who doubt that female wrestlers are far from being feminine, they need not look any further than the beauty of Brandi mae. As appealing as any of film's leading ladies and as competitive as any male athlete, Brandi Mae is an exemplary role model for all young women with hopes of pursuing a career in the world of sports.



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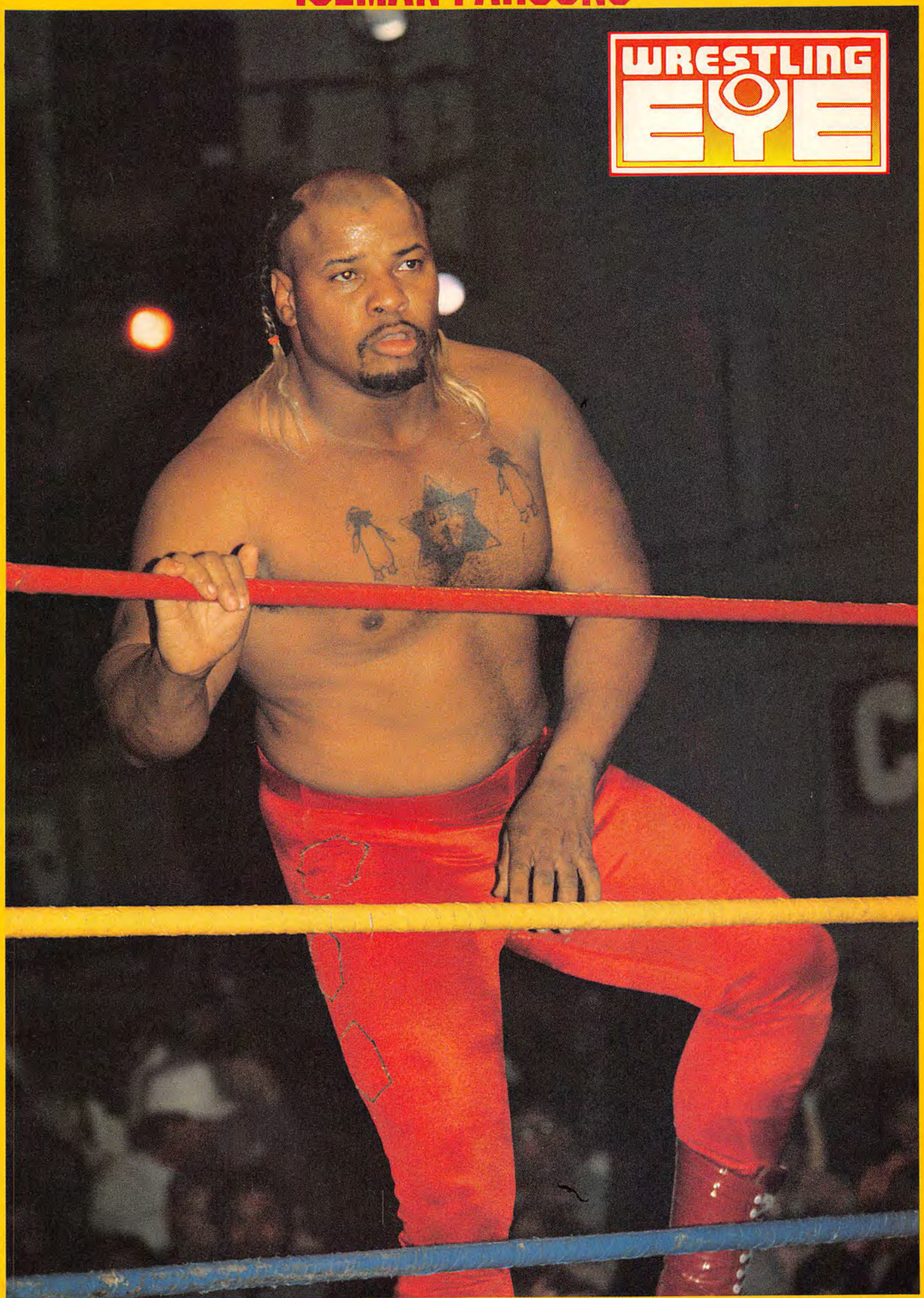


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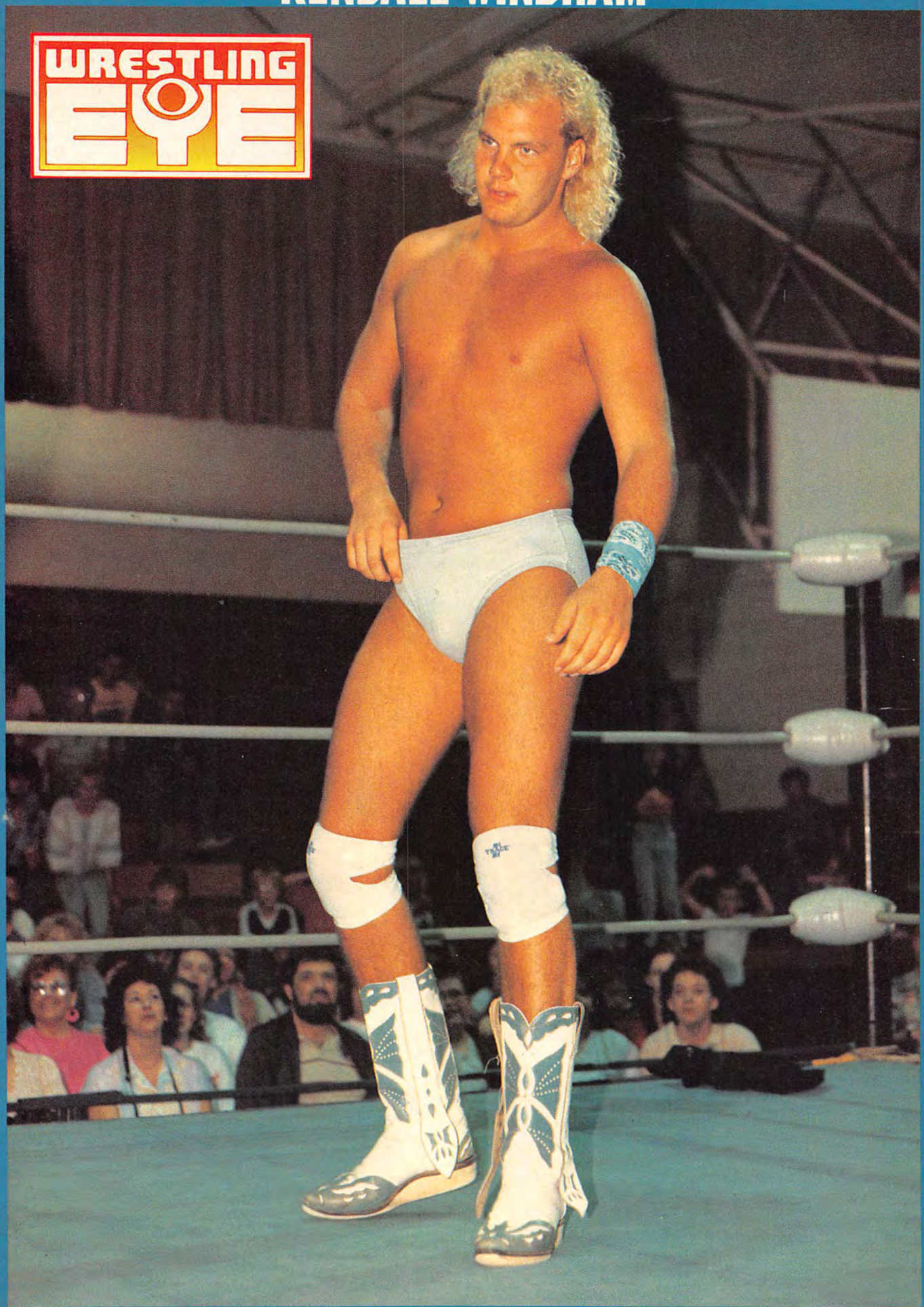




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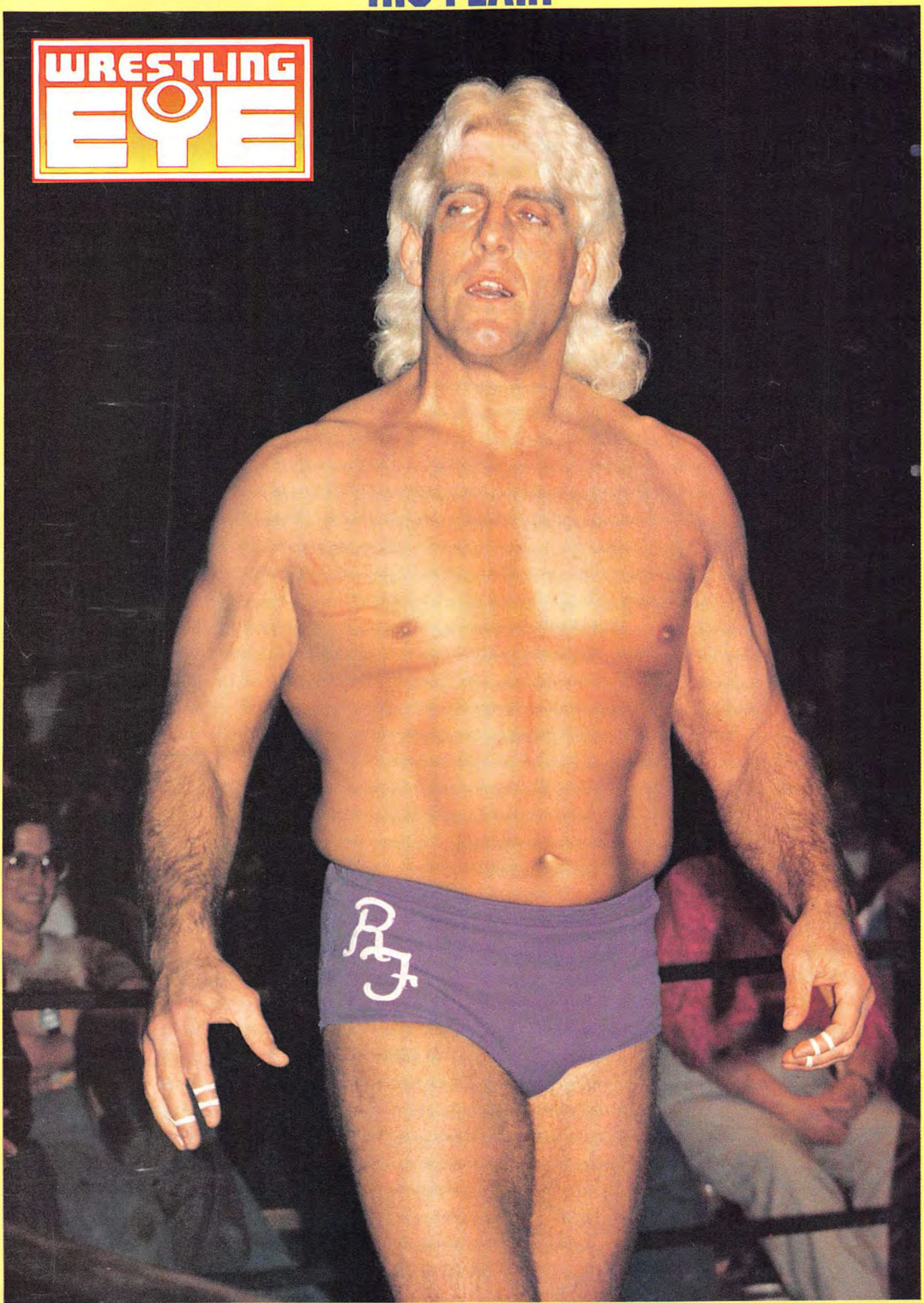


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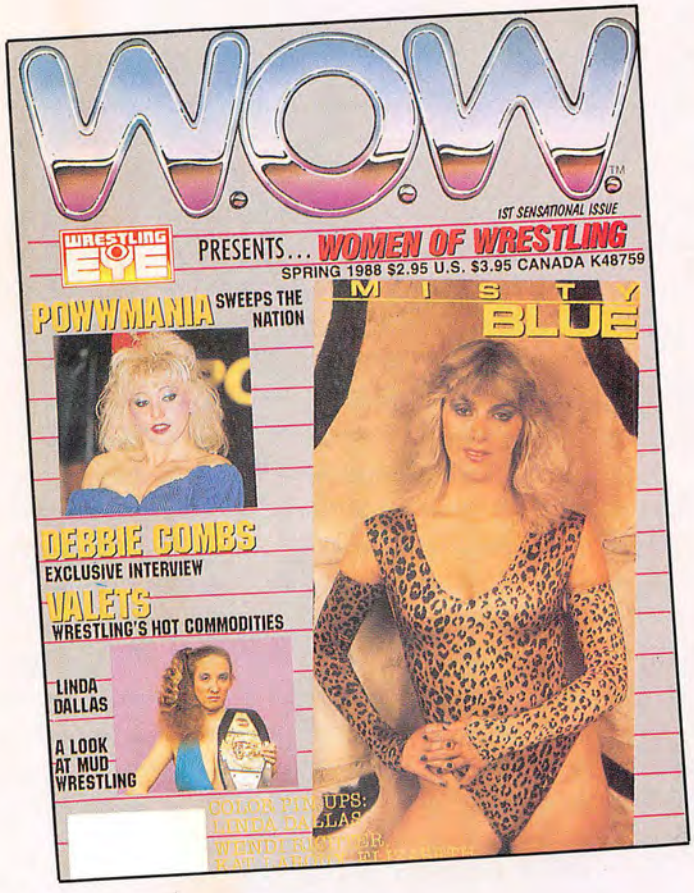


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